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# CONSTRUCTIVE RURAL SOCIOLOGY

*Maroon*

BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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## INTRODUCTION

Interest in the problems of rural life is wide-spread, but it is too generally uniformed. City people praise a life close to nature but avoid the life itself. Alarmists predict the early depopulation of the countryside. Optimists count upon macadamised roads, telephones, rural free delivery and moving-pictures at the school-house to make the farming population happy and contented. Despondent citizens predict a scarcity of food products and an early dependence upon Russia and the Argentine. Still others querulously ask why the urban unemployed refuse to accept large wages and a comfortable home as labourers upon the farms, or why the dwellers in tenements do not eagerly seek the soil and add to the national wealth.

There is a zeal for agricultural education. Experiment stations, colleges of agriculture, agricultural high schools are being multiplied, and even in the common schools agricultural subjects are being introduced. There is a deepening conviction that if only agricultural knowledge and skill can be widely distributed, and if the young can be given insight and enthusiasm for farming pursuits, our problems will be solved.

The demand for new forms of agricultural extension is growing. Farmers' Institutes are declared to be an out-grown device. It is insisted that experts must go to the farmers on their farms, that demonstration plots must be scattered throughout the countryside, that county agricultural advisers must be appointed to serve the farmers of the region.

Club women of town and city are concerning themselves with the life of women and girls upon the farm. To many the difficulty now is not so much to keep the boy on the farm

as it is to make rural life worth while for the girl. It is proposed, therefore, to supply the house with the results of an inventive skill which heretofore has been employed almost wholly on the farm outside the dwelling. A more interesting social life for farm women, closer contact with neighbours and with the nearest market town, are being urged. The extension of information about home decoration, cookery, and other household arts is being made a part of agricultural education and University extension everywhere.

All these conflicting ideas, suggestions, devices, need the steadying of fact and of authoritative principles. What is to be the future of agricultural industry? Is it to be organised on a factory system with large farms under expert management, or will the typical agricultural unit be the small farm intensively cultivated by one family? Or will these two systems be combined in different ways in different parts of the country? How are questions of this kind to be determined? What are the influences at work? These are pertinent questions.

The purpose of this volume is to provide in a clear and untechnical way the fundamental facts upon which judgments about past development, present tendencies and future growth are to be based. This volume ought to increase interest in rural problems and to make that interest more intelligent. It is to be welcomed as an important addition to the literature of the subject. It brings together in compact and convenient form a mass of significant facts and it draws sane and careful inferences. Professor Gillette has shown a clear grasp of the subject and has given us a valuable book which will be welcomed not only in school and college, but by the general reader.

GEORGE E. VINCENT.

President of the University of Minnesota.

December, 1912.

## PREFACE

Rural conditions are attracting widespread attention. Numerous articles and volumes dealing with country-life matters have appeared during the past few years. While many of the books issued are exceedingly useful hardly any of them could be considered a rural sociology. To consider together the various phases of the life of the rural community and so to organise and present them that they shall convey a knowledge and appreciation of the problems of country life is surely a useful undertaking. The present modest volume is an attempt to do this.

The writer's interest in rural matters was first aroused by Professor Charles R. Henderson's course on "Rural Communities" at the University of Chicago in 1900. A course of lectures entitled "North Dakota Sociology" was offered students of the University of North Dakota in 1908. But in order to interpret many local conditions a larger comparative study was necessary. This larger undertaking furnished the foundation for the present volume.

In this volume it is sought to define the scope of rural sociology, to differentiate between rural and urban communities, to distinguish the types of rural communities in the United States and to indicate the physical and social influences which have produced them, to consider the movement of population from country to city and the nature of the moving conditions, to compare the advantages of country and city, to mark out the nature of the rural problem, to consider the improvement of agriculture, farm marketing, farm labour, and the farm home so far as they concern rural community welfare, and to take an inventory of social institutions and indicate how they may be improved.

The aim of the author is primarily to supply a text on rural sociology that may be used in universities, colleges, agricultural colleges, and normal schools. The attempt has been made to give the facts and conditions of country life a broad sociological interpretation. Much valuable concrete data has been suppressed in order that principles might be prominent. It is hoped, however, that the style is sufficiently simple and direct to render the volume available for general purposes. In fact the writer has written "Constructive Rural Sociology" with the desire to reach the intelligent farmer as well as the teacher or student.

A criticism as to the scope of the text may arise relative to certain portions of chapters 7, 8, 9, and 11. It may be alleged that matters are treated which belong to economics, agriculture, and to sanitary and mechanical engineering. Technically such a criticism may be just. It is lessened by practical considerations, however, for many institutions in which instruction in rural matters is desired may not offer separate courses which develop those subjects in a specialised manner; or more general readers may not have facilities for informing themselves relative to them. It seemed best, therefore, to make a somewhat comprehensive survey of the improvement of agriculture, the home, marketing, and sanitation. Moreover the attempt has been made in each case to give the subject a sociological bearing. But if the proper sociological limits have been exceeded, good precedent for the excess exists. For Professor Carver has embodied in his "Principles of Rural Economics" considerable material of a sociological nature.

In the nature of the case I am indebted to many writers for the material embraced in most portions of the study. Full acknowledgment of this by references throughout the work has been made. I am accountable for the organisation of the material and for the plan of the work. The chapters which are peculiar to this work will be discovered by crit-

ical students in due time, and will stand or fall, according to their merits; as indeed will the whole volume.

I desire especially to thank my colleague, Assistant Professor Meyer Jacobstein of the department of economics, for valuable suggestions, Mr. George R. Davies, teaching fellow in sociology in the University of North Dakota, who has performed the exacting work of making the index, and President George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota who kindly consented to write the introduction.

JOHN M. GILLETTE.

University of North Dakota,  
December 6, 1912.





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# CONSTRUCTIVE RURAL SOCIOLOGY



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## CHAPTER I

### MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY

**Scope and Meaning.**—Rural sociology has as its particular task to take a full inventory of the conditions of life in rural communities. It must discover their tendencies and deficiencies, map out the special problems, and indicate ways of betterment according to the best ideals of social life. It is not, therefore, a mere dilettante study. It seeks to be useful. Its aim is to be practical, in the sense of organising information with a view to throwing light on a given situation. It has shortcomings because the field is new and not yet thoroughly organised, and because many phases of it are yet to be explored and charted. A study of rural life such as is here made, while it may settle nothing absolutely, may still entitle us to hold an opinion or conviction, and may even lead the way to a right policy and useful action.

The task of rural sociology being to consider the subject in its wholeness and to consider special features with a view to determining their influence upon rural life as a whole, rural sociology is by that differentiated from other rural studies, such as rural economics, for instance. The latter study would seek to discover the best methods of conducting rural matters in order best to advance business and to make wealth. It regards the wealth motive, and places it in the center of its considerations. It asks "Does this way or that

way most conduce to wealth production?" When it has found out, it advocates pursuing that special way. Rural transportation, for instance, interests the economist because it is necessary to carry on the economic activities of farming. It interests the sociologist because it is a means of communication, of social intercourse, of raising the satisfaction of life. The economist and the sociologist treat the same things frequently, but there can be no conflict so long as each keeps his legitimate aim directly before him.

The same remarks apply to the political scientist and sociologist, to the historian and sociologist, and to all other special social scientists and the sociologist.

Just what the social problems of rural community life are we shall determine when we come to treat the special problems of social life. We shall there seek to locate the problems, to outline them, and to discuss them as fully as possible.

**The Importance of Rural Sociology.**—The commanding attention which at the present time is being devoted to rural problems and which is roughly and loosely called "rural sociology" is one of the best proofs of the importance of rural sociology. Value is a social product. Things are valuable more or less according to the strength of people's appreciation of them and desire for them. If a subject occupies the public mind it is valuable for the public to the extent of its pressure. Whether it is of permanent value depends on its inherent power to compete with other issues. We must grant to rural sociology at least a very large temporary importance.

Besides the foregoing evidence of its current importance several additional reasons may be given as an indication of its more permanent value.

**The Importance of Agriculture.**—Our nation is becoming less and less agricultural as measured by the proportion of persons engaging in that pursuit. From this it might seem that agriculture is becoming less important. However,



when it is observed that all our inhabitants depend on the products of the farms and that population tends to overtake the amount of food a given territory produces the opinion arises that agriculture may become increasingly important to a nation. When it is further observed that the quality of life of an economic class is likely to be determined by the income, and that the intelligence and culture of the farming portion of the nation is dependent on its productivity; and that even the quality of life of all the people of the nation may be dependent on or affected by the cost of food, which in turn is determined by the quantity our farmers are able to produce ultimately, the subject gains a still larger importance.

Attention is being devoted to this subject. As an example of current consideration Mr. James J. Hill may be cited. He estimates that the population of the United States will be 117,036,229 in 1920, 142,091,663 in 1930, 170,905,412 in 1940, and 204,041,223 in 1950. He emphasizes the fact that this colossal population will be witnessed within the coming generation. "Therefore, and this is the focal point of the whole matter, the country is approaching the inevitable advent of a population of 150,000,000 or 200,000,000 within the lifetime of those now grown to man's estate, with a potential food supply that fails as the draft upon it advances. How are these people to be fed?"<sup>1</sup>

The general social significance of agriculture to the nation he notes in these words: "A prosperous agricultural interest is to a nation what good digestion is to a man. The farm is the basis of all industry. The soil is the only resource that renews itself continually after having produced value. I do not wish to belittle the importance of manufacture or its relative value in general growth. But for many years this country has made the mistake of unduly assisting manufacture, commerce, and other activities that center in cities,

<sup>1</sup> "Highways of Progress," Chap. 1.

at the expense of the farm. The result is a neglected system of agriculture and the decline of the farming interest. But all these other activities are founded upon agricultural growth of the nation and must continue to depend upon it. Every manufacturer, every merchant, every business man, every good citizen is deeply interested in maintaining the growth and development of our agricultural resources.”<sup>2</sup>

But that America will be able to meet future exigencies for food production can scarcely be doubted. The signs of this are given in the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture.

“A demand that is more difficult to fulfil in production per acre is for an increase that equals or exceeds the actual increase of population, including the immigrants and the temporarily high birth rate of the foreign born. But, notwithstanding the fact that this difficulty is greater in the United States than it is in all other countries that have practically ceased to take much new land into cultivation, many of the states of this nation are each maintaining an increase of production in the case of one or more prominent crops that is greater than the actual increase of population. Ten states are doing this in the case of corn; for wheat the number is 22; for oats, 16; and for hay, 25.”<sup>3</sup>

**The Importance of Rural Social Problems.**—Much that is said about country life is entirely economic. It is not difficult to get statistics of wealth and to determine the backwardness of tillage, or of stock-breeding. But there is a larger aspect of country life which can hardly be put statistically, although statistics may give some indication of the drift of things. The quality of life on the farm; the happiness and contentment which are the bone and sinew of well-being of the individual and society; the intellectual outlook on life which determines whether or not the individual and his class

<sup>2</sup> Same, pp. 45-6.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1910, p. 28.

will take part in progress or be the objects of exploitation; the relation of the farmers as a class to other classes, and hence the ease or difficulty of securing coöperation for larger community purposes; all these suggest problems and issues which are not immediately economic, political, religious, but which are primarily social.

**Usefulness to Rural Inhabitants.**—Living creatures have always contended with the environment in extracting their living from it. The more they have come to understand it the better they have been enabled to use it for their advantage. Men are finding this true of their social environment. Society is a complicated affair which is not easy to understand and to manage. Rural communities, as simple as they seem, have complexities and hidden meanings for the average man and woman. A large part of the backwardness, narrowness, and unhappiness of country life arises from a lack of comprehension of the conditions of the community and of the relation of the neighbourhood to the larger world.

Such a consideration of the various phases of rural life as rural sociology gives should be of immense value to the farmer, to the rural teacher, and to the country preacher and physician because of the light it throws on familiar conditions. If knowledge is for adjustment purposes, a comprehension of things about them should make the lives of rural inhabitants better adapted, fuller, and, consequently, happier.

**Importance to the Nation as a Whole.**—The whole nation should be interested in the condition of every fundamental part of the nation. We are greatly concerned over the problem of the poor, the criminals, and the defectives because we are certain that these classes are dangerous to the larger welfare. It has never been duly appreciated that there are conditions in the life of the farming population which are important to the total life of the nation or the state. But if the former classes are able to poison the larger life, any backward condition or defective structure of such a dominant

and fundamental class as the rural inhabitants must act of necessity as a deterrent.

Progress is secured by means of those equitable and distributed changes in a state or society which secure the right adjustment of each part to the whole organised life and permit none to be exploited by others. The farmer's advance does not mean others' injury, but his progress in all good things will contribute to the general upbuilding. His advance means the promotion of the common good. His better education means the intellectual enrichment of all other classes. His improvement in leadership so that he is competent to take care of his interests in county, state, and nation will bring about a revolution in political life which will offset the undue influence of special privilege in government. If the cities are corrupt and hold the balance of power for evil, as some would contend, an enlightened and strengthened agricultural vote would act as a countervailing influence.

Says ex-President Roosevelt: "Our civilisation rests at bottom on the wholesomeness, the attractiveness, and the completeness, as well as the prosperity, of life in the country. . . . Upon the development of country life rests ultimately our ability, by methods of farming requiring the highest intelligence to continue to feed and clothe the hungry nations; to supply the city with fresh blood, clean bodies, and clear brains that can endure the terrific strain of modern life; we need the development of men in the open country, who will be in the future, as in the past, the stay and strength of the nation in time of war, and its guiding and controlling spirit in time of peace." <sup>4</sup>

We may affirm, then, that it is a matter of general concern to consider the conditions of rural life with a view to applying our best ideals to it, to understanding it, and to coöperating with it for its advancement and the promotion of the common good.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Country Life Commission, p. 9. Sturgis & Walton Co.

## CHAPTER II

### DISTINCTION BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY

**Difficulty of Making the Distinction.**—It may seem absurd to raise the question of what constitutes a rural community, and what differentiates the rural from the urban community. The common man is likely to feel positive that he knows what the city is, what the country is and what distinguishes each from the other. It appears preposterous that we should not know when we are in the country or in the city and exactly where the boundary line is which separates them. In reality this is very much like the assurance of the popular mind that a man knows himself, his nature, his constitution. For would it not be ridiculous to think that one could live with himself so long without coming to a ripe knowledge of himself? However, to the student of various lines of sciences few things are more familiar than that common facts may prove hard to distinguish and to define for scientific purposes.

The difficulty of drawing hard and fast lines between domains appears in classifying the sciences. For example, it is not easy to differentiate between certain phases of history and political science, or between history and economics. The distinction between the sciences rests on the aim and interest of the scientific worker. Investigators of the different sciences often handle the same objects and matter. But since they have different interests to serve they gain different ideas from considering the same things and build distinct systems of knowledge as a consequence. A science is built on the foundation of a particular point of view.

Likewise it is conceivable that what would be a city for some intellectual purposes would not be for other purposes. The same is true for the country. There are some aggregations of populations, however, which could never serve as country and some country regions which could never serve as city. We may at least refuse to be surprised if the task of distinguishing the city from the rural community should develop difficulties.

**Distinction Based on Population.**— Census takers and statisticians group populations under the headings of urban or city and rural or country. This has been done in the United States at each decennial census since the first one in 1790.

Until recently cities composed only those aggregations of population having at least 8,000 inhabitants. But it was perceived that smaller aggregations contained essentially urban conditions. Hence the census of 1900 makes three classes of population: (1), urban, places of 4,000 or more people, together with 1,158 New England towns which have been taken to represent the urban element; (2), semi-urban, 9,553 incorporations having less than 4,000 inhabitants and more than 2,500; (3), rural, or purely country region, including villages and small centres of population of less than 2,500 people. The census of 1910 accepts and uses the 2,500 limit as the boundary line between the districts it considers rural and urban.

**Distinction Based on Function.**— Definitions of the city have been made by writers which have been based on abstract specialness of the activity taken into consideration independent of its concrete content; and also, by more careful writers based upon definite, determined and concrete activities, and notably certain industrial activities. Thus Adam Smith said: <sup>1</sup> "Cities are inhabited chiefly by artisans and trades-peoples." Sombart said cities are "aggregations of men dependent upon the products of outside agricultural labour for

<sup>1</sup> "Wealth of Nations," Bk. III, Chap. 3.

their subsistence." Both of these ideas are true only of modern cities. Agriculture has held a definite place in certain cities and centres.

The cities of ancient times were generally consumption cities, even the greatest of them. The history of the localisation of industries shows that industrial activities are relative to place and time. But in modern times, and especially in advanced nations, the functional characteristics are large factors in distinguishing municipal communities. They are largely what Smith and Sombart said: aggregations of artisans and tradespeople who are dependent on outside agriculture for subsistence.

This is defining the city in terms of the function of the inhabitants rather than in those of the city itself. It is quite possible to conceive the city in its collective aspect to possess and exercise functions which the rural community does not have. The city undertakes to do many things which are left to the citizen in the country. Water, light, drainage, sewage disposal, parks, etc., are a few of the distinctly city undertakings. These are, however, special undertakings mostly of modern times.

**Distinction Based on Social Mediation.**—One of the essential distinctions between city and country lies in the difference in the degree to which their inhabitants depend on the existence of social machinery as a transmitting agency in their business. The farmer produces to make a living and follows a business which is extractive in nature. His materials are first degree materials. He deals with nature and her resources directly, without the mediation of others. City dwellers, on the other hand, in prosecuting their business activities and in so far as they handle material goods, deal with nature indirectly. What they work up is in the second, third, or a greater degree removed from its original form. It has been shaped up and handled by other agencies. A vast array of social organisation stands in between them and

its source in nature. The material the urbanite works upon and the goods he consumes are thus mediated to him by way of this social mechanism.

To say this is not to ignore the fact that the farmer of to-day is also dependent on social organisation for obtaining the tools and implements he uses in production. Nor is it to deny that the modern agriculturist produces for the world at large rather than for himself; in the sense that what he produces is consumed by others rather than by himself. In fact he consumes a minimum of what he produces, and, generally, this little is worked upon and refined by others in society and returned to him in another form for consumption. Originally the farmer produced about everything he used. The household was almost self-sufficing. But the modern transportation and industrial system has placed him in contact with society and made him dependent on it as a producer and consumer.

**Distinction Based on Associational Life.**— We have to-day a simple terminology to classify communities according to their simplicity or complexity; namely, farm, village, city. Historically the growth into city life has been first family, then horde or clan, the members of which lived together, possibly in a communal house and composed of a set of related families. This presents the urban community of about the simplest type or is the beginning of the village. Later came the city with its aggregation of unrelated families, yet having a unity of its own arising out of the necessary interdependence.

To-day we can see that the city is a complex thing. It is a complexity of occupations, of trade groups and professional groups, of social structures with their accompanying functions. In this aspect the city is a social fact, that is, it is a complex community composed of a number of secondary groups. This associational life not only registers a much intenser complexity than rural life in the matter of groups,



but it has certain accompanying interests which give it a characteristic mark of its own.

It has been asserted that the place to begin to find the differential between social groups and to establish the right point of view for the comparative psychology of contemporaneous as well as of primitive aggregations is a study of the occupations. This is held to be obvious because they reflect the condition of mind brought on in an attempt to strike a proper and fruitful adjustment to the environment. As a consequence a consideration and comparison of the occupations of urban and rural regions might reveal the psychical traits and marks peculiar to each. Says Professor John Dewey, "Occupations determine the fundamental modes of activity, and hence control the formation and use of habits. These habits, in turn, are something more than practical and overt. 'Apperceptive masses' and associational tracts of necessity conform to the dominant activities. The occupations determine the chief of satisfaction, the standards of success and failure. Hence they furnish the working classification and definitions of value; they control the desire processes. Moreover they decide the sets of objects and relations that are important, and thereby provide the content or material of attention, and the qualities that are interestingly significant. The directions given to mental life thereby extend to emotional and intellectual characteristics. So fundamental and pervasive is the group of occupational activities that it affects the scheme or pattern of the structural organisation of mental traits. Occupations integrate special elements into a functioning whole."<sup>2</sup>

The hunting group or stage of primitive society illustrates this principle. The dominant pursuit of the chase stamped itself so deeply upon the primitive social structure that it dominates lines of attention and reaction, along with many incidental interests. Further, the methods and ways of reacting

<sup>2</sup> *Psychological Review*, 9: 217 ff.

become a part of social heredity and manifest themselves in our current civilisation.

Now if we should seek to apply this point of view to the matter in hand we doubtless would obtain important results. The fact will be treated later that individualities are the outcome of industrial and occupational activities and specialisations. Here we are interested in the obverse side, that the group which centres about some objective interest gets its community individuality transformed.

**Distinction Based on Density of Group Living Within a Definite and Given Area.**—Every community has a certain localisation. Even a tribe or a clan, which are more or less personal aggregations, are localised, though not strictly nor so essentially as incorporations. A rural community may be and generally is localised. But the essential difference between the city and country in this respect is that the city is a community which, relative to its human contents or density, occupies an especially limited area. To be sure, there are no absolute limits to this. The density and size of cities vary greatly. Whether there is to be a limit to the size of cities there is a bound to their density beyond which they cannot pass. Says Bookwalter, "The marked characteristic that distinguishes these two groups, so innately different in nature, is the capacity of the one for unlimited growth and development, and the want of a like power of indefinite expansion in the other."<sup>3</sup> The groups spoken of are "those essentially distinct and different groups of labour which naturally generate from the collection of a given number of agricultural units into the concrete form of a village or town."<sup>4</sup>

The average density of open country regions in the United States differs from section to section and state to state. In New England and the eastern states generally a square mile is likely to contain from 20 to 175 inhabitants. In the more

<sup>3</sup> "Rural Versus Urban," p. 55. The Knickerbocker Press, N. Y., 1910.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 54.

western states it may contain from one to four or five families, and in some new states the population is even less than this.

On the other hand, city density may run very high, and generally goes into the thousands per square mile. Thus New York County, New York, in 1900, contained 2,050,600 inhabitants in an area of 63 square miles, which was a density of 32,200. This density is produced by New York City, much of which lies in New York County. Chicago has a much less density. It is fairly well coextensive with Cook County, Illinois. In 1900 that county had a population of 1,838,735 persons. Its area was 993 square miles. The density was, therefore, nearly 1,852.

**Distinction Based on the Character of the Problems Arising in the Community.**—Whether or not the difference in communities based on a distinction between the problems and issues arising for solution is fundamental, it is at least important. It seems to be quite as fundamental as the distinction based on differences in density. Density is only a fact, although it may be a cause of problems and issues. But differences in density in itself is not a primary cause of such phenomena. Problems and issues which modern cities have to face are facts, and as such may be considered more or less relatively distinguishing characteristics. Some of these modern problems and issues are connected with congestion of population, water supply, light, sewage disposal, sidewalks, pavements, maintenance of parks, libraries, and theatres, industrial disturbances such as strikes and lockouts, misgovernment in the shape of the industrialisation of government or politics, and other phenomena.

Not all of these are entirely peculiar to the city. As we shall see later, the water supply may be menaced in the country, although it seldom calls for collective action. Roads in the country correspond to pavements in cities, though the problem is generally less intense and imperative. Libraries

may come to be considered as essential to country life as to city, as also may some form of amusement and recreation corresponding to the theatre. Strikes and lockouts, calling for community interference have been quite foreign to rural regions, though "larger farming" seem to be developing them. Misgovernment has often afflicted the latter, yet by reason of local lethargy and indifference, or because of boss and machine domination, rather than because of the projection of special interests into politics.

In some cases, then, it appears that the distinction is nearly absolute, while in other cases it is one of degree.

**Distinction Based on Types of Individuals, or of Individuality Developed.**—The industrial, commercial, and professional specialisation which is carried on so extensively in modern cities has created types of individuality which are peculiar to these modern aggregations. If character and qualities are the outcome of habits, and if habits are the outcome of reactions to particular environments, it is evident that there is a vast difference between the habitual reactions and points of view of city and country people. "Not only is language a group matter, but the range of thoughts possessed and used by any group is limited, and characterises one group in distinction from another. The teacher impresses his mind on the school, the father on the family, and the family or school becomes an intellectual group by itself. . . . Only members of the same group can really understand each other. The same holds true in different ages." <sup>5</sup>

There is a decided differentiation between rural and urban inhabitants in this respect. Thus we may say that the type in the country is simple and generally single. We have a farmer type based on agricultural interests and growing out of adjustments to those interests. In the cities, as we have seen, there are diverse occupations and vocations. Thus there are the professions, the various forms of commerce and

<sup>5</sup> Fairbanks, "Introduction to Sociology," p. 105.

trade, and the many kinds of industry and skilled activity. Each of these has its centre of absorbing interest and content of information about the interest involved; and it has its habits and reactions which are moulded into a type to correspond to the calling. These various types constitute the more complex individualities of urban communities.

We are not dealing with ultimate things in this discussion. For practical and psychological purposes these individualities differ from each other in obvious ways. It is common knowledge that the individuals of these types do not easily mix in a social way. It is difficult for them to keep up an extended conversation with each other. Their ideas are about different ranges of facts, and their points of view do not harmonise. Habits and standards of living diverge. Hence, the consciousness of kind between types is pale and diffused.

**Distinction Based on Collective Mind.**—The collective mind is a different concept from the individual mind. We may know, somewhat approximately, what to expect of individuals acting separately in given circumstances. What the collective action, emanating from the same individuals constituted as a crowd, would be is more difficult to predict. It is probable that density of population, the congregating of nationalities and races, and the cultural stimuli, to be found in cities, are factors which might be expected to produce a type of collective mind that is distinct from that of the open country.

Whether city or country is more prone to mob-mindedness is a pertinent consideration. This has been discussed by Giddings and Ross.

Ross says: "It has long been recognised that the behaviour of city populations under excitement shows the familiar characteristics of the mob, quite apart from any thronging. Here we get unanimity, impulsiveness, exaggeration of feeling, excessive credulity, fickleness, inability to rea-

son, and sudden alternations of boldness and cowardice. Here, indeed, are the chief counts in the indictments which historians have drawn against the city democracies of old Greece and mediæval Italy." All this is made possible by means of the easy communication of individuals, the quick contact of mind with mind, and manifests itself in booms, panics, strikes, mobs, and speculative manias. On the other hand, Giddings calls attention to the greater excitability of country populations. He says, "There have been scenes of wild violence in Paris and London; there have been draft and other riots in New York City; but the collective violence in all the great cities of Europe and America for two hundred years would not make a great comparison with the epidemics of emotion — accompanied by dancing and other manias — that surged through rural communities in connection with the great revival movements under the Wesleys, the later revivals of 1837 and 1857, the insurrections like Shay's Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion, the Ku Klux Klan outrages, the Vigilance Committee activities, the conflict between Gentiles and Mormons, the White Cap outrages, and the lynchings in our Western and Southern states."<sup>6</sup>

The truth is likely to lie in the statement that the more heterogeneous the population of the cities becomes the less are they beset by mob-mindedness, whereas the homogeneity of rural populations make them susceptible to certain forms of mental manias and violent manifestations under given conditions. It can hardly be held that our Northern and Western communities of the agricultural sort offer many or intense manifestations of the mob spirit.

**Conclusion.**—A recent writer, in an effort to define the city in its essential and historical characteristics, has emphasised the morphological characteristics as the true line of demarkation. His definition is interesting. It is this: "The city then is a complex community of which the geo-

<sup>6</sup> Ross, "Social Psychology," pp. 58-60.

graphical localisation is especially limited in relation to the city's size (volume), of which the amount of territory is relatively small with reference to the number of human beings." <sup>7</sup>

That is, the morphological qualities are the ones which historically have distinguished city and country. This complexity consists in the increasing association and multiplication of groups of social elements within a restricted area. But since our purpose is limited to a consideration of modern communities only, we are not bound by this historical distinction, however true to fact it may be. We are obliged to take into consideration all the observable peculiarities which mark off one community from the others.

Probably all of the things we have mentioned must be taken into account in determining the line of demarkation between urban and rural communities. Without question the complexity and interdependence of functions of the individuals and groups which constitute cities, together with the peculiar character of those functions, lie at the centre of any attempt to establish a criterion of cities, and vice versa, of the country districts.

<sup>7</sup> René Maunier, "The Definition of the City," *Amer. Jour. Sociology*, 15: 545.

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## CHAPTER III

### TYPES OF COMMUNITIES AS RESULTS OF THE DIFFERENTIATING EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENT

**Other Than Physical Environment.**— It might be expected that there would be variations among rural communities. As a fact not all are alike. Neighbourhoods possess individualities which in some cases are very pronounced. In broad terms we may say that these distinctive traits are the products of differences in environment. By the term environment as used here is meant not only the physical but also the occupational and historical conditions. The last two are the factors which society itself furnishes in large measure, although occupations of a given region, to a considerable degree, are determined by the region. The historical factor is completely in the social environment. It constitutes what is more commonly alluded to in sociology as “social heredity.”

There are certain regions of the United States where the historical factor plays an imperative part in determining what the community shall be. This is notably the case in the older regions, as among New England hills, where custom is so strong that old ways are kept up in the face of advantageous inventions and processes. It is even more impressively seen in the southeastern portion of our country, where the institution of slavery existed up to the end of the Civil War. The customs, points of view, prejudices, race animosities, and many social conditions which were the offspring of slavery, exist to influence and direct the currents of present life.

Without attempting to draw the boundary line with fine distinction between the physical and social causes of the dif-



ferences we will seek to locate and describe several of the types and sub-types to which these agencies give rise. This is undertaken with some hesitancy. It is a new task and the primary effort is likely to be crude and open to criticism. However, it is apparent that the distinctions exist and it may be of some value to outline them.

### I. PURE AGRICULTURAL TYPE

What may be designated as the pure agricultural type exists wherever agricultural pursuits occupy the whole attention and energy of the community, as was previously established. Psychologically, types of societies are fixed by occupations, because they determine interests, organisation, outlook, and kind of culture.

It is also true that certain effects of a collective and neighbourhood nature likewise arise out of the forms of undertaking which vary from rural community to rural community. Some of the effects we have knowledge of. Analogically we have a right to infer that corresponding results ensue from those forms whose consequences we do not as yet know intimately.

Under the pure agricultural type is to be noted the existence of several sub-types. As to origin these arise out of variations in the form of the products. Let us list some of the more cognisable sub-types and notice certain of the important results which come out of their accompanying activities.

**Exclusively Small Grain Raising Community.**—Some of the conditions of the production of small grains in the United States are the following:

(1) Only a small part of the year is actually spent in productive activity. Seeding, harvesting, and threshing are the active periods. Between them are long periods of inactivity. The result is extensive leisure for the men, there being no subsidiary or incidental work carried on in connec-

tion with grain raising. (2) Production takes place by means of mechanical devices which make this form of agriculture almost an industrial occupation of the skilled sort. (3) Expansive cultivation is dominant, large areas being depended on for adequate returns, rather than small areas with intensive culture. (4) Because of the large area of the land tilled the homes are necessarily widely separated. This imposes a consequent social isolation.

There are certain social and individual results which come from or are related to those conditions.

(1) There is a generally high intelligence. This is partly historical, but tends to come from stimulated and necessary reading, from intercourse and discussion with those of like interest, and from the mechanical and semi-industrialised character of the occupation. (2) Spasmodic coöperation undertakings obtain, such as the Farmer's Equity Association, etc. (3) Social life for the family is largely wanting, especially for the wives and mothers. This is due to the isolation just noted.

**Exclusively Corn-Raising Community.**—As consisting of a single form of crop, a staple which is available to serve as food for man, various domestic animals and fowls, the pure corn-community does not largely exist. When, however, poultry, swine, and cattle are kept on the farm as incidental means of furnishing food for the household the form of production might be regarded as of the pure type.

Some of the conditions which accompany corn culture are these:

(1) Quite incessant labour takes place from early spring when the ground is broken up and crops put in, through a period of cultivation, till the garnering is completed in the fall or early winter. There is an interim between "laying by" corn and "gathering" it in which it does not demand attention. But haying and other incidental matters usually occupy this period. (2) Leisure for the men is conspicuous

during a more or less protracted winter. (3) The individual areas under cultivation are smaller than in small-grain growing, with a consequent closer proximity of homes. (4) The labour processes are mostly mechanical with the exception of husking and shovelling, and the incidental choring. (5) There is necessarily much choring due to the maintenance of cows, hogs, chickens, and sometimes fruit, bees, and gardens.

The effects of the foregoing conditions on life and society are essentially and generally as follows:

(1) Relatively high intelligence, especially in the more progressive regions of the United States where more advanced methods are followed. (2) The existence of considerable neighbourhood social activities, especially among the women, and of neighbourhood coöperation. Dances, spelling matches, husking bees, are familiar forms of association. (3) A larger amount of the collective sort of play among the children of a neighbourhood takes place than in the small-grain type. This arises from the proximity of homes.

**Cotton-Raising Community.**— Cotton production, either as an exclusive or as the leading business, dominates the attention, agriculturally, of the whole southeastern portion of the United States. Production maps define the area as the "Cotton Belt." Cotton is one of the most important crops and articles of export of the nation. Both physical and social conditions have set aside this area to the production of the white fibre.

Climate, soil, and topographical conditions originally favoured the establishment of slavery in the South. When about to be eliminated by the operation of natural and historical causes the invention of Whitney's gin renewed and multiplied the value of slave labour in the culture of cotton, which then became "king." In a peculiarly close manner, cotton and the South, slave labour and cotton culture entered into association with each other. The Civil War eliminated

slavery, but it could not eliminate the partnership previously formed. Negro labour continued to be the mainstay of the South in the raising of cotton. Custom prevented the departure of the blacks from the seat of their enslavement.

Separate maps localising these geographical features, namely, the densest negro population, the richest soil, a topography of level plains, and the chief cotton regions, would cover almost the same territory. This indicates the close connection existing between the several factors. Race prejudice, chiefly on the side of the whites, serves as an obstacle to the rise in social and economic matters on the part of the negroes. Historical situations which it took generations to create are too profound to be eradicated in a generation. Thus the "cotton belt" remains peculiarly devoted to "King Cotton," because of social conditions as well as by reason of the physical inducements.

The more prominent conditions which accompany cotton production may be observed generally throughout the southern states.

(1) Either large farms or plantations exist with many negro labourers operating under a manager; or there are in existence many small cotton farms with renters; in some cases with owners. A common landscape in the cotton belt is a wide level tract of tilled land, dotted every few hundred yards with negro cabins. These are set in the midst of cotton fields, the ground about them being tilled by the occupants. Most of them have but one door, and a small square opening in one wall serves for a window. (2) Much or most of the labour of producing cotton is done by hand. Small, one-horse ploughs are frequent. The hoe is a conspicuous farm implement. Cotton picking is done by hand, although a mechanical cotton-picker is in the commercial field. The ginning and bailing is performed by means of machinery. (3) The operation of the credit and lien systems by managers and storekeepers serves to keep the negro renter con-

tinually in debt and in practical serfdom. (4) Unemployment between crops, and between laying by and picking cotton, offers an opportunity for loafing.

Some of the effects of associate conditions are:

(1) There is a generally low intelligence of the workers and their families, due to the social inheritance and to the backward agricultural methods in use. (2) Especially is there shiftlessness, hopelessness, and unprofitable leisure on the part of the mass of negro labourers. (3) Much social life, particularly on plantations, exists of the noisy, boisterous sort. Revivals and dances are especially popular. (4) Some coöperation occurs on the part of neighbour farmers in the cotton-picking season.

In a similar manner various other forms of the pure type of agricultural community might be described. The task awaits the hand of those who are familiar with life under those conditions. Thus we would have fruit raising, stock raising, market gardening, dairying, and perhaps other lines of agricultural operation as varieties. Each variety, by the very force of conditions surrounding the activities of the persons engaged in it, would offer a community which, in certain respects, differs from other communities.

## II. THE MIXED-AGRICULTURAL TYPE

**Diversification of Industry.**—Many of the agricultural communities of the United States constitute what may well be called the mixed-agricultural type. This exists wherever there is a considerable combination in the production of crops. The life of the people is modified to the degree to which the combination is made and their interests are affected. Some of the essential traits in the modes of life of the producers follow from the characteristics of the type of occupation. Thus we have as varieties of this type the following combinations: grain and stock raising, dairying and agriculture, lumbering, and farming.

In this mixed type there is to be noted a transition toward a more complex social and economic life of the community.

*First.* There is likely to be an added element of population and social stratification by reason of the added labour power. A hired man is usually employed, or in many cases a man with his family live on the place as hired attendants.

*Second.* There is diversification in work which is due to the combined lines of pursuits. This is increased where either line is further diversified. This diversification is likely to take the farm residents into contact with the outside world more frequently.

*Third.* There is increased permanency and continuity in occupation.

*Fourth.* In older communities social stratification is likely to take place on lines of employer and employed. Where there are renters this forms on lines of land-owner and renters. These dividing lines tend to qualify the social institutions of the community, especially the church, the inferior classes usually dropping out.

### III. FRONTIER OR PIONEER TYPE

**A Northern Minnesota Community.**—A marked distinction in the life of communities arises between well established and pioneer communities. By way of illustration compare the two communities as to fixity of occupation, homes, schools, churches, cultural facilities, standards of living, manners, clothes, and ideals.

Let us take a typical community of Northern Minnesota, as an illustration of this type. It is a frontier region in the northern forests. The large pines have been logged off. Abundance of basswood, poplar, birch, etc., remain. The country is sparsely settled. Most of the residents originally homesteaded. Small lakes abound.

The livelihood of the average resident is secured by the occasional disposal of cord-wood or logs for ready money

with which the scant supply of groceries, clothes, and other articles are purchased and taxes are paid. A small clearing commonly provides garden products such as potatoes, beans, various sorts of tubers other than potatoes, for family use and occasional sale. The lakes supply an abundance of fish and the forests occasional game. Fuel may be had at will from the forests.

The grain fields of the Dakotas and Canada offer an opportunity to the young single men and to some heads of families to pick up a few hundred dollars in the harvesting and threshing season. This pretty nearly finances them during the remainder of the year and discourages the harder effort of subduing the wilderness. Thus, living being relatively easy and clearing land being difficult, the reduction of the forest lands to agricultural use is exceedingly slow.

The situation has influenced the character of the people. They are generally unambitious, shiftless, undependable, and temporary. Most of them want to sell, although the land is of a fine quality and will be valuable when improved. The standards of living are low. A few clothes, a little food, and the commonest utilities in the small homes are deemed sufficient. Manners are crude and frontier, although most of the adults come from older communities. Ideals are necessarily low. All are sociable and ready to do a good turn. The dance is the leading social pastime, and the young people walk, ride, or row many miles to take part in them. Occasional picnics are held and are well attended. Sunday School is kept up in the village church in the summer, with intermittent preaching. The church is decadent and bears little relation to present-day life. The school, with generally neat buildings and grounds, is the best kept institution in the community. Capable teachers are hard to secure. Much fervid oratory and ambitious electioneering is spent in conducting school elections. The "three R's" receive the chief emphasis in the district school.

## IV. BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

**Their Nature and Location.**—In various parts of the United States are communities which may be termed backward, stagnant, or degenerate. Like the others which have been treated, historical, physical, and topographical conditions have conspired to make them what they are. Such communities may be identical with other kinds in certain cases. Thus we might have a stagnant corn community, stagnant cotton community, or other form of stagnant neighbourhood.

Examples of these communities are found in New England, isolated from the larger world in the pockets of the hills; in the hills and mountains of Arkansas and Missouri where the pioneer type of past generations persist; in the adjoining mountain regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. The latter embrace the famous people now known as the "mountain whites." Those of Missouri and Arkansas resemble them in all essential characteristics, and doubtless migrated from the same general region and stock three-quarters of a century ago. New York and other states both east and west contain similar communities. "Dead villages" so widely scattered over the land also may be classed with them.

The decadence of New England agriculture as a pathological condition has probably been exaggerated. The regret so manifest over abandoned farms in the East is largely sentimental, rather than based on economic reasons. The buildings are old, ill adapted, and often deserted because of farm consolidation. Thus in the worst township in New York an investigation showed that there were 45 deserted farmhouses in the 45 square miles, which was due to the fact that these farms had been consolidated with others. The farms are in size and adaptation traditional rather than social and economic. War or early settlement made them small — prob-



ably too small for competitive purposes. Due to diversification, the eastern states lead the United States in the number of products produced and in their value per acre.

**The Mountain Whites.**—As an example, the most extensive and notable backward community in the United States will be described in some fulness. As before noted, the mountain whites of the South occupy the adjacent portion of eight states, embracing a region of some two or three million acres. This region is elevated and mountainous, rich in timber and mineral deposits, and has been called aptly “Appalachian America.” Big Sandy, Licking, Kentucky, and Cumberland rivers rise there as “creeks” and flow out; brawling torrents in winter, almost dry in summer. These streams with their tributaries divide the country into long, narrow valleys with their intervening mountain ranges. Travel follows the streams. It is said that no steamboat can penetrate into the Kentucky mountains. Until recently there was no railroad in the region. There does not exist a single well-made wagon road.

There are two explanations of the origin of the people of this region, who are so different from the mass of our American citizenship as to have gained the characterisation of “our contemporary ancestors,” and to have won for the large region the title of “a retarded frontier.” One explanation derives them from the redemptioners of Colonial times who, when set free by their masters, would not remain among them to mix with negro labourers, but pushed into the upland regions and, separated by mountain barriers, were lost to the influences and view of civilisation.

The other account makes them descendants of the Colonial German, Scotch, and French settlers, who pushed into the region before the Revolutionary War and settled the elevated plateau. The persistence of Old English words and phrases inclines us to accept the former explanation as more probably the true one.

In speech they touch a remote past. There are no dialects, but old words with their earlier meanings are preserved in abundance. Many words come down from the time of Chaucer.

The chief occupations of the mountain whites are agriculture, distilling, and logging. Corn, oats, and potatoes are the principal crops. Tobacco, flax, and cotton are minor crops. Small yields are made because of the sterile soil and poor markets. Farms are classed as valley, bottom, and hillside. The latter kind are so nearly perpendicular that local legend says a man fell "out of his field and broke his neck." Unless it is forest or mineral, land is worth from \$3 to \$7 per acre. Bottom farms rent for one-half, hillside for one-third the yield, or 50 cents per acre.

Distilling corn, rye, and apples into "moonshine" whiskey affords about the only markets for those products. This, together with a strong taste for intoxicants and a lack of social intercourse, accounts for the practice of moonshining. Logging is an avenue of activity. In 1890 this section of country contained one of the best hardwood forests. Much of the forest supply has been exhausted.

In customs and beliefs as well as in vestiges of language the inhabitants we are discussing speak of the past. The feud is one of the more vicious forms of ancient customs which survive. A suggestion has been made recently that this mode of conflict had its origin in the guerilla conditions which prevailed as a consequence of the Civil War. Based on the law of blood revenge, as it is, it frequently becomes so bitter that whole families are exterminated in the course of its operation. The use of intoxicants intensifies its influence. This is coming to be recognised and there is a rising sentiment against "moonshining," as well as a passage of restriction laws.

The beliefs and views of these mountaineers come down from long ago. The Bible is taken literally, and the tribal and primitive doctrines and practices of the first few books

of the Old Testament hold the preference over the ethical teachings of the later prophets and of Jesus. The earth is supposed to be square, the sun to swing around the earth, the Mexican War is alluded to as recent history, and the Civil War referred to in whispers. Education is backward. Isolation discourages social intercourse or the progressive kind of neighbourhood coöperation. Hospitality for the traveller abounds until abused.

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## CHAPTER IV:

### RURAL AND URBAN INCREASE <sup>1</sup>

It is commonly estimated that the cities of the United States are built up in population at the expense of the country. If this is so it must have a very important bearing on the "rural problem." In so far as it is true, to that extent it is a factor to be considered in relation to the latter.

It is the business of this chapter to demonstrate the degree of the movement from country to city, to indicate what the significance of this movement is for rural communities, to seek its more trenchant causes, and to touch upon preventive agencies.

#### I. FACTS AS TO THE DRIFT TO CITIES

**The Fact of City Growth.**—In the beginning it is necessary to examine the fact of city drift as a fact. First, it is a fact. In 1900, 31.1 per cent. of the population of the United States lived in cities of 8,000 or more persons, while in 1790 there were but 3.3 per cent. of such urbanites. There were 6 cities of 8,000 inhabitants in 1790, 545 in 1900. There was no increase in the number of such places until the census of 1810. Then the increase in such places by decades was 5, 2, 13, 18, 41, 56, 85, 60, 161, 98.<sup>2</sup>

Reckoning all places of 2,500 inhabitants or more as urban, which is now the practice of the United States Census

<sup>1</sup> The substance of this paper appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of the University of North Dakota* for October, 1910, and January, 1911, under the title "City Trend of Population and Leadership," and in the *Amer. J. Soc.*, March, 1911, as "The Drift to the City in Relation to the Rural Problem."

<sup>2</sup> *Eleventh Census*, 1900, Vol. I, Table XXIX.

Bureau, in 1910 46.3 per cent. of our people were urban as compared with 36.1 in 1890 and 40.5 in 1900; while 53.7 per cent. were rural in comparison with 63.9 per cent. in 1890 and 59.5, in 1900.<sup>3</sup>

**Relativity of Rural Loss.**—Decrease of rural population is relative, not actual, for the country as a whole. The actual loss of rural population is small. In the North Atlantic division from 1890 to 1900 there was a net loss of 238,865, three states having gained 86,943, while six states lost 325,808 rural inhabitants. In the South Atlantic division there was a gain of 830,739 for country districts, only one state, Delaware, having lost, to the extent of 2,404 persons. The North Central division had a rural gain to its credit of 458,149, notwithstanding the fact that five of its states sustained a rural loss of 138,315 inhabitants. The South Central and Western Divisions showed large net rural gains, the former gaining 67.7 per cent. in the decade, the latter 36.9 per cent.<sup>4</sup> Maine sustained a rural loss of 13.3 per cent. of its total increase of population; New Hampshire 44.9; Vermont 214.9; Massachusetts 2.2; New York 16.4; New Jersey 13.9; Delaware 14.8; Nebraska 125.2; Kansas 51.0; Ohio 17.1; Indiana 0.1; and Illinois 2.9 per cent. In the case of Kansas and Nebraska the rural decrease was of a temporary nature, being due to droughts in the western ends of those states in the earlier part of the decade.

The following states are shown to have lost rural population in the decade 1900–1910, measured in per cent.: New Hampshire 5.4; Vermont 4.2; Ohio 1.3; Indiana 5.5; Illinois 0.5; Iowa 7.2; and Missouri 3.5. Two divisions show a loss. New England declined in rural population 0.5 per cent. and the East North Central Division, 0.2 per cent.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary statement of Census Bureau on "Urban and Rural Population of the United States."

<sup>4</sup> *Twelfth Census*, Vol. I, Table XXXVI.

<sup>5</sup> Preliminary statement of Census Bureau on "Urban and Rural Population of the United States."

**Permanency of City Increase.**— The tendency toward the relative decrease of rural and the relative increase of urban population seems likely to continue, judging from decennial statistics. The increase of population of cities of 8,000 or more inhabitants from 1790 to 1820 was 50.9 per cent., from 1820 to 1850 it was 83.1 per cent., from 1850 to 1880 it was 58.4, from 1880 to 1900 it was 48.6. The percentage of increase of city populations touched its maximum from 1840 to 1850 when it registered 99.3 per cent. The other highest point was between 1820 and 1830 when the per cent. was 82.0. The average since 1850 has been 53.5 while before 1820 it was but 50.9 per cent. While we may not witness another such spurt in city increase as that between 1820 and 1850, we find little encouragement from the record to expect a near decline.

Conversely, the percentage of increase of rural population has steadily decreased. The percentages run as follows: from 1790 to 1820, 34.1; 1820 to 1850, 30.3; 1850 to 1880, 24.2; 1880 to 1900, 14.3; 1900 to 1910, 11.1 per cent. The decade from 1870 to 1880 shows the only increase in the rate, one from 15.6 to 27.2. But in the two following decades it falls to 14.5 and 14.1.

The ratio of increase of city to rural population was 1.6 per cent. from 1790 to 1820, 2.7 from 1820 to 1850, 2.6 from 1850 to 1880, 3.4 from 1880 to 1900.<sup>6</sup>

**Industrial Nature of City Gain.**— The increase of city as against rural population is localised. It is connected with industrial regions or regions becoming industrialised. The facts given above on rural losses show that they occurred in the North Atlantic and North Central states almost exclusively. The most industrialised states have the largest percentages of urbanites: Rhode Island 96.7, Massachusetts 92.8, New York 78.8, and so on, while southern and western states have small ones: Kansas 29.2, Mississippi 11.5, Ten-

<sup>6</sup> *Census Bulletin No. 4*, 1903, Table XXIII.

nessee 20.2.<sup>7</sup> For recent times the law could be safely formulated: the increase in rural population is in inverse and that in urban population is in direct proportion to the degree of industrialisation.

During the decade just closed eleven cities passed into the 100,000 class with others likely to be added as compared with ten for the preceding decade. The largest gain made by any city of that class from 1890 to 1900 was 103.4 per cent. while from 1900 to 1910 two cities gained over 200 per cent., one gaining 245.4 and the other 211.5, while a third gained 124.3 per cent. During the decade 1890 to 1900, 36 cities gained access to the 25,000 class while in the last decade 69 cities secured that promotion. The percentage of increase of the cities of the 25,000 class rose from 32.5 for the decade ending with 1900 to 39 for that ending with 1910; that of the cities of the 100,000 class sank from 32 in the former to 31.8 in the latter decade. Cities under 25,000 had not been reported when this was written.<sup>8</sup>

## II. SOURCES OF CITY GROWTH

In consideration of the fact that modern populations possess a large degree of fluidity both within the confines of particular nations of the more advanced type and between nation and nation it would not be safe to assume that the cities of America have gained their inhabitants at the direct expense of country districts. We have shown that certain rural regions sustain actual losses of people but we would have to prove that the equivalent number above city gains from all other directions had been absorbed by cities before we could assert that the rural migrants had been stolen by urban communities. Our recourse must be to statistics.

<sup>7</sup> Preliminary statement, Census 1910, "Urban and Rural Population of the United States," August 12, 1911.

<sup>8</sup> *Recapitulation of Census Population Announcements*, Washington, D. C., November 23, 1910.

There are four possible modes of swelling urban population: by excess of births over deaths, by migration from farms, by immigration, and by incorporation of smaller cities. The last, incorporation, is insignificant.

**Natural Increase.**— Excess of births over deaths is likely to be of considerable importance, but our data regarding vital statistics are meagre. Relative to New England this statement is made:

The summary of vital statistics for the New England cities for 1902 shows that the natural increase, due to the excess of births over deaths, of towns of 10,000 and upward is 8.67 per thousand; whereas in places below 10,000 the rate was only 1.28 per thousand.<sup>9</sup>

Generally, municipal mortality statistics are untrustworthy.<sup>10</sup> The rural and urban mortality averages of the total registration area of the United States show slight differences, 9/100 for city and 8/100 for country.<sup>11</sup> Birth-rate averages are lacking so that as to the resulting gains or losses of either locality we are in the dark.

**Immigration.**— Immigration as a source of urban population deserves more attention than it has been given. It accounts for 65 to 70 per cent. of city increase. The immigrants are settling in industrial regions. The North Atlantic and North Central divisions of the United States received the preponderating number of incoming Irish, French, Germans, Bohemians, Scandinavians, Austrians, Hungarians, Italians, Poles, and Russians in 1890 and 1900.<sup>12</sup> According to the report of the immigration bureau of the Western Passenger Association four-fifths of the aliens admitted in 1904 and 1905 settled in the eight following states: New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey,

<sup>9</sup> Kinley, "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture," IV, 116.

<sup>10</sup> Irving Fisher, "Report on National Vitality," 21.

<sup>11</sup> *U. S. Statistical Abstract*, 1908, p. 75.

<sup>12</sup> *Tenth Census*, 1890, Pt. I, p. cxxxvi, and *Eleventh Census*, Vol. I, pp. clxxiv and civ.



Ohio, Connecticut, and California. Of these New York and Pennsylvania in 1905 received about 550,000 against a little over 300,000 received by the other six states.

The Commissioner General of Immigration reports that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, 544,563 immigrant aliens remained in this country. Of these, twelve states, namely, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin, received over 10,000 each, or 95 per cent., and six states, namely, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, received over 25,000 each, or 78 per cent. of the total.<sup>13</sup>

The larger industrial centres absorbed the vastly larger portion of migrants to industrial states.<sup>14</sup> There are living in cities of 25,000 or more inhabitants about 75 per cent. of Russians; 63 per cent. each of Poles, Italians, and Irish; and nearly 60 per cent. each of Bohemians, Austrians, and Hungarians. These, except the Irish, are the foreign races which now most come to America.<sup>15</sup> A large part of these and other races settle in smaller industrial cities.

Let us apply the percentages of the Commissioner General of Immigration's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, as a criterion of the proportion of distribution of aliens in this nation, for the decade 1890-1900. The total immigration to this country in that decade was 3,687,564. Taking 78 as the percentage of aliens probably settling in the six states mentioned we find it represents 2,876,300. This in turn is found to be 67.5 per cent. of the total urban increase of those states during the same decade. If in the same manner we treat the twelve states in which 95 per cent. of the immigrants settled during 1905, it is found that this portion of the immigration to the United States in the last decade

<sup>13</sup> *Report of the Commissioner General of Immigration*, 1909, pp. 19-20.

<sup>14</sup> Hall, *Immigration*, 343-45.

<sup>15</sup> *U. S. Statistical Atlas*, 1903, Plate 73.

of last century amounts to 69.2 per cent. of the urban increase of those twelve states. It is probable that the distribution of immigration did not differ materially in the two periods considered. From this we may conclude that from 65 to 70 per cent. of the urban growth of the United States is composed of immigrants.

**Rural Migration.**—It is popularly believed that the country districts furnish the larger portion of city growth. A careful analysis of interstate migration, together with the application of the decennial rate of population increase to cities, disproves this common dogma.

The percentage of increase of the total population of the nation between 1890 and 1900 was 20.7 per cent. Of this increase 1.7 per cent. was due to immigration and 19 per cent. to excess of births over deaths among native born. This may be taken as the approximate increase of urban communities, because, while it is held that rural regions maintain a larger increase because of larger families, on the other hand the urban increase is likely to be quite as large from the fact that the foreign stock found dominantly in cities increases faster than the native stock found dominantly in the country. Subtract this 19 per cent. of natural increase of urban populations from the 30 or 35 per cent. of urban growth not accounted for by immigration and there is left some 10 or 15 per cent. of city growth to be drawn from rural regions.

Corroborative evidence of the truth of this conclusion is derived from a study of interstate migration. The states of New York and Iowa must serve to illustrate this line of proof.

It is to be observed that the South Central and South Atlantic states received but a small proportion of New York born; that the industrial states of the North Atlantic division absorbed the most of that division's share, the cities evidently taking them; that the North Central states which

have been building up agriculturally during the nineteenth century and industrially during the last few decades took the largest exodus of any one division, the fair inference being that the migrants chiefly went onto farms, and that in the Western division agriculture and mining took up the larger portion of New York born.

Regarding the 7.4 per cent. and 26.1 per cent. of the state's population who were immigrants from other states and foreign nations the rural regions probably took the larger portions of the former in the earlier decades of the nineteenth century while the cities absorbed the immigrants. The constituency of New York City and Buffalo warrant the latter inference. As to the former city, 55 per cent. of the population were born in the state, 8 per cent. in other states, while 37 per cent. were foreign born. As to Buffalo, the percentages in the same order are 63.2, 7.2, and 29.6.

Taking Iowa as a type of the state largely agricultural but with considerable industrial development, the following are the data as to distribution of the interstate migration: The divisions which absorbed the Iowa born to the extent of 25,000 or more are as follows: North Central, outside of Iowa, 387,052, of which Illinois received 48,096; Minnesota, 42,096; Missouri, 52,575; South Dakota, 31,047; Nebraska, 85,807; Kansas, 88,153; South Central, 37,285, and Western, 115,092. Evidently the migrants went to swell the agricultural population of the nation to the greatest extent.

With regard to the native born and the foreign born who settled in the state, a total of 913,476 persons, it is evident that they went into agriculture mostly, since the urban population of Iowa in 1900 was 16.8 per cent., while these elements make 40.9 per cent. of the state's population. Selecting Des Moines as a typical Iowa city, the percentages of Iowa born, native born from outside Iowa, and foreign born living in it are respectively 52.6, 34.6, and 12.8.

## III. SIGNIFICANCE AND CAUSES OF MIGRATION TO CITIES

**Chief Effect, Isolation and Loss of Leadership.**— Notwithstanding the fact that the flow of country population to the cities is less than is generally supposed, there may be some important considerations for rural communities involved in the movement. However much else may be implicated, the following points deserve attention.

First, the actual loss of population in itself may not be an affliction to the country. It is rather the results which flow out of this loss which might prove baneful.

Second, we may conceive that the country will receive an injury in so far as the supply of subsistence necessary to its existence is cut down. Reflection shows that this injury is more apt to be felt by the people of urban communities than by those of the country, because to lessen rural population is to enlarge the farms, the scope of agriculture for those who remain farmers, and to heighten prices of farm produce in so far as the supply of subsistence needed for the nation at large is reduced or menaced. But if the labour supply which is necessary for agricultural production goes to the city, leaving farms untilled or crops not harvested, the rural region so affected would receive a direct injury.

As a matter of fact, the supply of farm produce has not been put in jeopardy in America thus far though there is a decrease in the exportation of the products of the farm, and if it has been jeopardised the farmers who sell are benefited rather than injured. Moreover, if the prices of foods have risen, as they have, it is not certain that any considerable part of the rise is due to the lessening relative rural population. In, so far as rural population touches prices it is by way of the organisation of agricultural producers to regulate market prices for their own benefit. As to the supply of farm labour, it is a fact that many regions of our nation are afflicted

with shortages of labourers periodically. But this periodical shortage, while certainly an inconvenience and often a source of loss to the agriculturists involved, must be regarded as but natural, since the demand for labour is on a periodic basis and no provision is made for constant supply of employment or for appropriate social conditions.

Third, we may briefly notice the injury to the country arising from the increased isolation of the farm families by reason of loss of rural population. In the older communities of the eastern and middle states and also in the newer communities of the more western states, farm consolidation is proceeding, leaving abandoned homesteads as melancholy reminders of the former occupants. In the fertile valley of the Red River of the North many such deserted homesteads may be seen. The country districts are losing, though the counties themselves are gaining population. The farmers have sold out to their neighbours and have gone farther west or north to take up land just as the Iowa farmers and the Minnesota farmers are selling to their neighbours and have gone west to buy land.

Professor Bailey regards the lament of the "abandoned farm" as the product of sentiment rather than of reason. He believes farm abandonment is a necessary part of the agricultural shift which is taking place and that it has some redeeming aspects.<sup>16</sup> However, he overlooks the social isolation which may ensue by reason of the elimination of every other country family, probably not great in thickly settled New York state, but considerable in some sections where the farms are already large. A family to the square mile is not conducive to intercourse and sociability of the personal sort, save as automobiles and other means of rapid transit exist to encourage it.

Fourth, the most serious effect of the shift of population

<sup>16</sup> "The State and the Farmer," Chap. 1.

from country to city is involved in the loss of leadership sustained by rural communities. This will receive special consideration in the chapter on education.

**Fundamental Causes.**—Relative to the drift of population to cities, we must distinguish between the fundamental and the casual influences. In our inspection of the facts of city growth we found the rate and tendency had been uniformly manifest from the beginning till now. This forces the inference that fundamental and constant forces of such a nature are at work that we must expect their continuous operation. When we look over the whole field of nations, the most advanced in civilisation, we discover that the city trend is universal. Indeed it is obvious that rather than being exceptionally victimised by urban increase at the expense of the country districts the United States has fared well.<sup>17</sup> The forces at work to produce the cityward movement are peculiar to the age in which we live and are essential and intrinsic to it. The United States has escaped their full effect because it has had a vast, free, seductive, and easily worked agricultural domain which has absorbed its own and other nations' fluid populations.

We have had other city ages in the history of mankind, but none on such a universal scale, nor any in which in any state the cities were so numerous, so large, or so essentially a vital part of the social mechanism as is now the case. The reason was that the scientific knowledge and technical appliances which now create and propel human progress and currents were absent. Our city age is in birth and growth coexistent with the industrial age. Back of this as its precondition lies the growing body of exact knowledge in physics, chemistry and other sciences which has been absolutely necessary to the mechanical and economic evolution and which created it. Our modern populations are caught in the whirl of a civilisation which rests on scientific and technological

<sup>17</sup> Strong's "Challenge of the City," 20.

principles. These principles logically and inevitably work out along industrial and commercial lines, multiplying and refining the goods of the former, and demanding the latter on a huge complex scale for their exchange. Thus the number of city dwellers demanded to carry on these enlarged and rapidly expanding lines of human endeavour constantly increases and since the expansion of the former is somewhat in geometrical ratio to the growth of population at large the city population forges ahead of the rural.

The agricultural regions also are affected directly by the scientific and technical principles and appliances, but here the results on population are entirely opposite to those in the case of cities. For the farmers are producing raw material and as the productive power of labour is increased on the farm more food is produced. People can eat only about so much. The increase in the farmer's productive power enables more people to live in cities, to take part in diversifying the forms of raw material, enhancing their prices, and in exchange and other work. It may even enable the farms to reduce their population, though this is not likely to be the actual case.<sup>18</sup>

Being a constituent and intrinsic part of the social process we may not expect the tendency to cease. Rather we must expect the continued growth of science in its principles and applications, of inventions of machines, the multiplication of the forms of goods to be manufactured, the increased specialisation in vocations, the development of scientific and intensive agriculture.<sup>19</sup>

**Incidental Causes.**—The more casual and incidental forces moving inhabitants to cities are social, cultural, recreational, and vocational. Country life is isolated. Social intercourse is restricted. The moving throng and kaleidoscopic life of cities fascinates and allures. Cities are centres of informa-

<sup>18</sup> See Chap. 12 for effects of farm machinery on production.

<sup>19</sup> Strong, *op. cit.*, 21-35.

tion, of thought, of art, of music. The achievements of the ages are condensed and packed in their structures, machines, museums, libraries, institutes, and marts; and the frequent and immediately accessible newspapers effervesce with news of the current cosmos. The productions of the masters in painting, sculpture, and architecture may be seen, and the present masters of voice, interpretation, and instrument are to be seen and heard. Modes of recreation and amusement abound to match the tastes of every class of devotees, no small inducement to those used to isolation and a monotonous round of labour. Occupations and pursuits of multitudinous forms to suit the whims, the tastes, and the inclinations of every type of individuality exert their glamour and provide a satisfaction often actually more seeming than real, yet nevertheless seductive in the extreme. All of these influences combined constitute a powerful attraction and suffice to sweep the retired farmer, the ambitious youth seeking to get established, the occasional worker, and the adventurer, into the whirl of urban life.

**Remedial Efforts.**—If we have succeeded in locating the more important influences which impel men cityward, and if it is worth while to seek to deter the stream of life flowing out of rural places, in so far as our analysis is correct we have a clue to the remedial agencies to be adopted.

First, since the great population movement takes place in response to the profound forces which are essential and intrinsic to this age, we might as well expect to dam the Mississippi River to keep back the flow from the gulf as to avert the bulk of population from the cities. Farm colonies and "back-to-the-farm" movements have very small possibilities as solvents. Possibly some day, as in Belgium, now, cheap transportation and other inducements may enable urban workers to live far out in country regions. But they will not be farmers. Industrial and commercial aggregations are inevitable. We must expect their increase. Our social



efforts must be turned to things which may be accomplished.

Second, the second set of causes inducing persons cityward, namely, the social, cultural, vocational, and recreational, in so far as they are not dependent on the first, may be checked by regulation. This may be accomplished by setting up counter-attractions in the country. Country life can be and ought to be improved. Country homes should have the comforts and conveniences of city homes. Farm life can be made more cultural and social. Amusements and recreation can be made a part of child life as well as of adult. Improvements and mechanical devices can lessen the hardships and drudgery of outside and inside work.

Third, rural school life can be reorganised and filled with new content, aims, and ideals so that the youth in training shall come to look upon agriculture as an honoured, useful, and desirable line of life. To make the rural school over is to make over the next generation of country people and to furnish them with a well-equipped leadership of their own.

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## CHAPTER V.

### THE SOCIAL NATURE OF THE RURAL PROBLEM

There is a consensus of opinion among writers on country life that there is a rural problem. How far the farmers of the nation participate in this belief is undemonstrable. Unless they believe that there is something wrong with their estate it will be of no immediate benefit to the country for writers to agree. In this case a beneficial change could be produced only by a long and elementary process of education.

That the farmers are of the opinion that there is something wrong with the country there are indications. There is a growing interest on their part in the discussion of rural matters. This pertains to more than the consideration of improvement of soil, crops and machinery. The schools and neighbourhood conditions are discussed with interest. This is noted not only in the frequency with which educational subjects appear on the programmes of farmer's meetings but in the marked attention and interest farmers manifest towards the papers and discussions on social subjects.

**Sense in Which There is a Problem.**— It would be an error to think that the problem exists because of rural deterioration. There has been no such deterioration in the United States in any general sense. In fact there has been conspicuous progress made by our agriculturists. We have but to compare the present conditions of life on the farm with that of pre-Revolutionary times to see this. Indeed a comparison with more recent times will prove sufficient. Our contemporaries who were born in the earlier third of the nineteenth century well remember the hardships, privations, and primitive methods of farming and farm life which prevailed in their youth.

It is one of the glories of the average well settled community that it is better fed, housed, and clothed, and does its work more easily and rapidly than was possible in the earlier period.

It is true there has been retrogression in certain communities; also that many communities have failed to make the advance sustained by the agricultural regions generally. Those communities constitute special pathological studies. They are to be located and mapped out in all their conditions just as the sore spots in the cities are now undergoing study with a view to improvement.

Certain communities have shown a very recent tendency to deterioration in social matters. This is particularly true of certain regions of fertility and prosperity where the farmers have retired into the neighbouring villages or cities, leaving the conduct of the farms and the leadership of the neighbourhood in the hands of renters, who may or may not be inferior to the owners in ability and ambition but who, it could hardly be expected, would show the same interest in the up-keep and the upbuilding of the community as the permanent owners.

The rural problem is in reality a product of the intellectual faculties. There was no rural problem recognised a few years ago. Conditions in the country have not grown worse since then. Country life was regarded as satisfactory and as well suited to the needs of the farming classes. Then men began to think about rural conditions. Rural education was subjected to a fierce criticism. Persons who had pursued courses in rural sociology and the press of the country took up the discussion, agricultural schools responded, farmers' institutes were infected, and the President of the United States took the important step of appointing the Country Life Commission. This move of Mr. Roosevelt itself had an enormous effect. The whole country from Maine to California and from North Dakota to Texas was filled with opinions about rural decline. Eventually progressive farming

populations took up the discussion of country life betterment. The origin of the problem lay in the discovery that conditions in the country might be improved, that they are not as good as the people living there deserve, that the majority of the owners of farms could well afford better things in the home and in education than they support, and that there is no inherent reason why the farming class may not and should not live as well as people of equal financial ability who dwell in the cities.

**Dependence of Farm Life Upon Other Activities.**—In considering the nature of the problem of the country we face the fact that the farmer cannot escape being wrapped up with the destiny of the rest of the nation and the world. The discovery of this interdependence and relatedness of farming life to all other kinds of life and to farming life all over the world is a part of the location of the problem. It is in the nature of a revelation to the nation and to the farming class that there is something to do. To put clearly before the farmers that they are on a competitive basis with others of their class in this country and outside, and that they also compete with other classes in given particulars is to state conditions which they must meet.

It is no reflection upon the farmer to state that in his outlook he has been an intense individualist. His philosophy of life has been developed from his contact with nature and from his apparent aloofness from the social mechanism. His crops and his stock, his income and his prosperity have seemed to come by the application of his own individual effort to the conditions which the physical environment afforded. He has been told by party politicians that it was his duty to vote for the traditional party policy, the realisation of the opposing policy meaning disaster. Occasionally he has asked that the government should assist him by means of agricultural schools, or by putting a curb on railways and other corporations. But these appeals, or approaches toward

an appreciation of his relationship to society at large, dependence on social conditions, and of a control of his destinies through the social organisation have been spasmodic and incidental. They have only partly changed his philosophy from intense individualism to one of coöperative effort. He has not believed that any constant, organised, co-operative effort was necessary. Recently he has been getting a larger view of matters but it cannot be said that he has come into the possession of an adequate and comprehensive view of his social relatedness so that he is able to make use of it.

**Farmers a Social and Economic Class.**— That the farmers constitute an important and distinct economic and social class, and that they fail to exercise the power and influence for their own and the nation's good which a class of their importance should may be made apparent.

Farmers form a very large part of the nation's population. In 1900 there were 10,381,765 farmers and farm labourers. The next largest occupational group comprised a little over seven million workers. By classification of population 51.9 per cent. of all persons in 1900 were rated as rural, that is, as dwellers in the country or in cities of 2,500 or less inhabitants.

Measured in terms of wealth agriculturists are one of the most important classes. In 1900 their wealth was estimated at twenty and one-fourth billion dollars out of a total national wealth of 107 billion. The thirteenth census will doubtless show a decidedly large increase. Reports thus far state that the value of farm lands have grown from \$13,051,033,000 in 1900 to \$28,384,821,000 in 1910, an increase of 118 per cent. Probably few other kinds of property values can show such an increase. There are smaller numbers of people belonging to the commercial and industrial classes who by controlling the machinery of production and distribution of wealth have come into the legal possession of the

greater portion of the wealth of the entire nation. The short-sighted policy of farmers relative to political matters has been largely accountable for such unequal conditions. As we shall see later there are promises of improvement. Indeed improvement has already taken place.

Since a class is known by its characteristics and the interests which it holds in common as well as by the function it performs in society, the agriculturists must be reckoned as a distinct class. To them is assigned the specific task of supplying the raw materials of food, and, to an extent, of other commodities for the support of society. They extract it from the earth in a characteristic manner which separates them from the vocations of other workers. They have interests which are in common, whether they recognise and respond to them or not, and which are peculiar to them as a class. These common interests in agriculture in its broadest sense, in its methods and processes, in its appliances, in its conditions and betterment serve to differentiate farmers from the rest of society. Not that others may not also be interested in these things but only in a remote way. The farmers must know these things thoroughly, are responsible for their continuance, and in their ordering and conduct find their well being and satisfaction in life. Their associations, their organised efforts, their coöperative undertakings, must be built on the recognition of these common interests.

Socially the farmer has not been rated as the equal of city residents. He is backward as a social class as measured by class status or social rating. This has long been recognised in the caricatures of "country Rheubes" which have appeared in the press and comic papers of the nation. He is represented as uncouth and primitive in his dress, as slow and stolid like the ox, as a gawk, and as generally inferior to city dwellers. He has been caricatured and depicted also in the names which have been applied to him, such as "Reuben" or "Reube," "hayseed," "spinach," "clod-hopper."

It would be interesting to know just how far this somewhat make-believe rating is applied by farmers to themselves. Experience and observation leads us to believe that it is partly accepted and that it is also resented, indicating a certain class consciousness. City men who were farmer boys vividly remember with what dread they entered town, how the city people were looked upon as superior to country people, how they were swelled with importance when they received their first notice from city boys, how there was a state of hostility between country and city boys, a hostility based on a consciousness of certain distinct differences in the mode of life. While rivalry and neighbourhood pride existed in the relationships of country communities to each other it was of a different sort than that between town and country.

It has been a matter of observation in a large number of states that social recognition is sought of urbanites by rural people and that it is hardly ever the reverse. In a well known neighbourhood this was decidedly the case. Country people felt a pride in being given recognition by residents of the town. Country women drew heavily on the home treasury to cater to guests from the county seat. The sententious remark was made of those who associated with urbanites, "Oh, she is above us now since she is associating with town people!"

**Dearth of Leadership and Other Problems.**—The leadership of the rural regions is undeveloped or is largely lacking as compared with what would be expected of such a populous and wealthy portion of the nation. This backwardness in leadership is noticeable in several directions. In the national governmental affairs it would be difficult to mention a member of the farming fraternity in any branch of the government who stands out as a real leader. But certainly the farming class has something at stake in the conduct of the national government. Its interests in agricultural education, in the price of its products, in the adjustment of the tariff



on farm products, in being consumer of imported goods on which rates are levied, in the adjustment of freight rates placed on its output and on the goods it purchases are of the greatest importance. Yet it has rested complacently on the theory that the interests of one class may and will be properly cared for by the representatives of another class. The Labour class of the world gave itself up to the same fallacious theory until recently. It trusted its affairs to the mercies of the classes which made use of it. In European nations and in Great Britain this notion has been superseded by the belief that its own representatives will best serve it in legislative and general governmental matters. The numerous labour members who sit in national legislatures are a standing testimonial to the changed attitude.

In state matters the farmers have a large membership in the legislatures, though their influence is not in proportion to the number of seats they occupy. Too frequently they simply register votes under the leadership of members of other classes. In executive and administrative matters they possess little power.

One of the great problems confronting the country, therefore, is to create the leadership which the economic importance and the populousness of the farmers warrant, to develop the organisation and coöperative ability which the age necessitates, and to learn to respect and to esteem itself as a social class equal to other classes. For there is no reason to think that in natural ability, in solidity of understanding, and in common sense the farmers are inferior to members of other occupations.

Connected with the economic side of farm life is the matter of conducting the farm as a business undertaking. This is seldom done. Farmers are accustomed to let things take care of themselves, to undertake the year's work, the putting in of crops, the breeding of stock, the support of a dairy

herd on general principles. Little or no record is kept of the items of expense. Memory is trusted to connect the present undertaking with past experience. The average agricultural undertaking is very similar to sailing the ocean without any knowledge of the charts, depending entirely upon the compass hour by hour and day by day to get the ship across safely.

Since the farmers are to-day competing with all parts of the world in the production of their crops, stock, and dairy and poultry products they are amenable to the laws of supply and demand and the setting of prices in the markets of the world. They are also competing with other lines of business to get the largest returns out of a given amount of capital. To consider it as a business, to know its ins and outs, to have a complete record of it so as to ascertain its value as a business proposition constitutes a necessity of farming. How to realise it also constitutes a problem.

The sociability phases of rural life are of even more importance than the material phases. They are related to the latter somewhat as end to means. Without social intercourse the life of the average person would be considered empty notwithstanding the possible largeness of the farm, the great yield of produce, the beauty and fatness of the stock, and the extensiveness of the bank account. If the country is deficient in sociability matters we shall have to regard it as an evil.

There are some indications that country life is more nearly stagnant and impoverished in social intercourse than in other directions. Stagnation means that, relatively speaking, rural life does not keep pace with corresponding grades of life in the city. Social poverty involves the thought that the country is really backward in view of the demands and ideals of modern life. Deficiencies in intellectual stimulus and outlook, amusement and recreation, associational and institutional agencies, and in education deserve extended considera-

tion. This will be accorded them in succeeding connections.

**The Proper Point of View.**—The drift to the cities has been thought to be the rural problem. The press frequently reports meetings which have been called to combat the urban tendency or to promote the “back to the farm movement.” We have noticed this so-called evil in the previous chapter. It was there ascertained that the cities of the United States, in keeping with a world-wide tendency, are absorbing larger and larger proportions of the population of the nation. We investigated the source of the growth of cities and discovered that only about ten to fifteen per cent. of their increase is derived from country districts while from sixty-five to seventy per cent. is of foreign origin. The movement of population from one farming section to another, especially to regions in process of settlement, largely accounts for the actual and seeming loss of country inhabitants in general.

It is proper to recognise that there is a considerable movement of persons away from farm life. But the subordination of the country to the city in matters of population must be regarded as largely inevitable. This takes it outside the range of being a problem that is pressing on us for consideration.

The point of view to be supported relative to farm life is not that which undertakes to improve conditions in order to keep people from moving to the cities. It is rather that which seeks to better the rural situation for the sake of those who are to remain in it, to secure for them what of right should be theirs. Rural people are as good as urban people. What civilisation has matured should be theirs to use because they are its heirs and participants along with city dwellers. We must make up our minds that many persons will leave the country for the city and that it is well that they go. The great undertaking is to give country dwellers an insight into the possibilities of rural life and an understanding of con-

ditions which will enable them to secure for themselves all the blessings and satisfactions which civilisation embraces. And this should be carried out by right of their humanity, not to keep them on the farm.

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## CHAPTER VI

### ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FARM LIFE

Were our task merely to build a science of rural sociology a discussion of the advantages of farm life might be out of place. A cold-blooded science desires to know the facts, not for utilitarian purposes directly, but in order that they may be given their proper classification and that legitimate scientific conclusions may be drawn from them. But in its applied phase rural sociology has a right to consider whether or not rural life is advantageous. It must proceed upon a comparative basis and the only range of comparison is country and city.

In nearly every succeeding chapter we shall find it necessary to refer to city conditions to discover whether the country is realising all it might realise in some given direction. It may be discovered that some of the advantages of farm life are arbitrary and not intrinsic to it. In that case they are open to attack and may be subject to elimination or reduction.

There are two available methods of discovering the advantages and disadvantages of farm life. One is to find what people think they are; the other is to decide the issue by deliberately weighing the facts in the case. Neither method excludes the other. Both methods are valuable and supplement each other.

**Student Opinions of the Country.**—Statements of opinions relative to the desirability of farm life have been gathered by means of sending out questions to students in educational institutions. Of the two questionnaires available one

was sent to Cornell University, New York, students; the other, to students of the University of North Dakota. Only the salient points gained from the reports can receive attention.

The disadvantages which received most attention by North Dakota University students in reply to the question, "Why did you leave the farm?" were those due to meagre financial rewards, presence of hard labour, and dearth of social and intellectual opportunities. Positively stated, educational and professional aims and ambitions exercised the greater propelling influence away from farm life. The majority of the students who replied were from the country but practically none planned to return.

One farmer boy writes that farming is a position of the greatest independence. If conditions were rectified it would be an ideal calling. It offers a place where habits of industry and perseverance are cultivated. A student from town who had lived two years in the country wrote: "I hope that the two years I spent on the farm may never be repeated."

The Cornell questionnaire includes replies from two groups of students; 68 were city bred but expected to become farmers; 193 were from the farm and were studying in the Agricultural College to secure a training which would improve their farming operations. The following points in favour of farming received emphasis: Desire to be out of doors, love of nature and of farm life; belief that it provides an independent, remunerative and agreeable occupation, a healthful life, wholesome family conditions, and opportunities to cultivate the mental and spiritual nature.

These questionnaires furnish some interesting facts. First, although North Dakota is an agricultural state predominantly the students of its university commonly expressed a desire to leave the farm or to avoid it. This is a decided

contrast to the New York replies. In Cornell University both city and country bred students show a strong bent toward agricultural life. Second, the love of nature and out-of-door life is conspicuous in the case of the New York students. This is particularly true of the group of students who came from the farm. Perhaps instruction in the institution had much to do with this. Third, no less significant are the statements of Cornell students of both city and rural groups as to what farming provides. Professor Bailey, who made the study, remarks that the replies of the students from farms upset the widespread notion that the agricultural college educates away from the farm. His remark is true of Cornell and a few other similar institutions, but not of all agricultural colleges, as will be seen in the chapter on rural education.

#### I. ADVANTAGES OF FARM LIFE

A deliberative consideration of the advantages to be derived from a life on the farm marks the following important ones:

**Out-of-Door Life and Health.**—We are acknowledging in many ways the advantages to be derived from an out-of-door life. We have open-air schools, open-air cure for tuberculosis, outings and tramps for nervous break-downs, insomnia, etc. More and more city populations and indoor workers try to get possession of a period of time for recreation and exercise in the country. The construction of extensive parks in cities is a recognition of open-air spaces for exercise and oxygenation. What health experts and city dwellers seek to impress and realise to a degree the farmers, at least the men, and to a considerable extent the women, realise throughout all or the larger portion of the year. If the farming class is not more robust and healthier than city dwellers it is

not because of the neglect of the normal use of out-of-door life.

[The cities tear down the nervous organisation of human beings at a fearful rate. The battering of the nervous system which takes place through the ears in metropolitan places is prodigious and incessant.] To one who has lived away from them for a number of years and returns the clatter and clash, the rush and pandemonium of sound, is almost awful. It represents a Niagara in comparison with the peace and quiet of a mountain vale. } Says Fisher:<sup>1</sup> "Observing practitioners comment on the increasing nervous tension in modern life. The rush of the railway train, the telephone, the elevator, are at once an outgrowth and an excitant of this increasing tension. They are life's pacemakers and the pace is ever quickened. The health officer of New York City attributes to this severer strain the increase of heart and nervous diseases.] It would be interesting to know the relative prevalence of adult diseases under conditions of reposeful and exciting surroundings and occupations, but I know of no investigations on this phase of the subject." In other connections he calls attention to the fact that the expectancy of longevity in infancy has increased while that for persons of 60 has decreased, save for the last few years in Great Britain, where it tends to hold its own. } [Common observation holds that city conditions tend to tear down and wear out the stock in a few generations, and that country life is conducive to repose and longevity.] It is stated that dwellers of London fail to reproduce their stock after the third generation. The general advantage to health to be derived from living in the open country is made obvious by the following statistical considerations:

1. *The death-rate of children is considerably lower in the country than in the city.* This is shown in the accompanying table (Table 1).

<sup>1</sup> "Report on National Vitality," p. 98.



TABLE I 2

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN IN REGISTRATION STATES (1900)

Diseases	Cities		Rural Parts	
	Under 1	Under 5	Under 1	Under 5
Measles .....	206.3	151.2	119.3	63.4
Scarlet Fever .....	35.1	80.6	20.9	40.0
Diphtheria and Croup....	180.9	343.8	59.0	124.6
Diarrhœal diseases .....	4,595.9	1,218.0	2,576.6	713.7
Total death rate of white children .....	18,410.0	5,970.0	11,740.0	3,440.0

Professor Mangold writes as follows: "Danger from contagion is much more common in the city than in country districts. Even the most painstaking measures of quarantine and isolation will not obviate the differences. The ebb and flow of city population tends to perpetuate disease and to carry it from place to place. From these dangers the rural districts are almost immune. The cities likewise offer the lurking germs a better opportunity to hide themselves, and the squalor and poverty of the 'other half' renders them easy victims of disease. Federal statistics indicate that such children's diseases as diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, and the diarrhœal diseases are much more frequent in the cities than elsewhere. It has been shown that in Massachusetts measles and scarlet fever are three times as frequent in the city as in country districts, and that in the United States smallpox and diphtheria are twice as prevalent in urban communities."

The city is handicapped by being dependent upon an imported food supply which is subject to deterioration while en route to the city. This is especially true of milk. It is a breeder of diarrhœal diseases, and sometimes certain contagious diseases. City water has commonly been inferior to that in the country.

In addition to these causes may be mentioned "deaths from premature births, congenital debility, and similar weak-

nesses, which in the cities exceed the rural rate by 60 per cent.; while deaths from convulsions are 50 per cent. higher." The figures in the above table show that the urban mortality is over 50 per cent. higher for age periods than that of the country. "Our cities destroy three children for every two who die in the country!"<sup>3</sup>

2. *The death-rate for the various ages in the registration areas per 1,000 population shows the same difference, Table 2.*

TABLE II<sup>4</sup>

## RURAL AND CITY DEATH RATE BY AGE

	Under 1	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over
Cities ...	184.7	59.7	4.3	5.9	9.1	12.1	24.3	90.9
Rural ...	117.4	34.4	3.2	5.3	6.8	8.0	15.7	76.8

3. *In only eight out of twenty diseases does the country exceed the city in the number of deaths.* These diseases are malarial fever, influenza, dysentery, diseases of the nervous system, diseases of the circulatory system, and peritonitis. The comparative mortality rates from diseases relative to city and country are to be found in table 3.

TABLE III<sup>5</sup>

## MORTALITY PER 100,000 OF POPULATION IN REGISTRATION AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1907. (City and Rural)

	Cities	Rural Districts
Typhoid fever .....	21.4	19.9
Malarial fever .....	1.7	2.4
Smallpox .....	0.2	0.1
Measles .....	11.3	5.7
Scarlet fever .....	13.8	4.3
Whooping cough .....	10.2	8.8
Diphtheria and croup.....	30.6	15.2
Influenza .....	19.8	38.2

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 38.

<sup>4</sup> *Twelfth Census*, Vol. III, p. lxxx.

<sup>5</sup> "Mortality Statistics, U. S. Dept. Commerce and Labor," 1907, p. 34.

	Cities	Rural Districts
Dysentery .....	5.1	7.7
Tuberculosis of lungs.....	175.3	119.7
Venereal diseases .....	7.0	2.2
Cancer .....	79.6	73.9
Rheumatism .....	8.4	7.9
Diabetes .....	16.7	14.7
Alcoholism .....	9.8	4.4
Diseases of Nervous System.....	173.9	188.7
Meningitis .....	31.4	18.5
Apoplexy and Paralysis.....	93.4	119.4
Diseases of Circulatory System.....	203.4	208.7
Heart Disease .....	150.3	166.0
Diseases of Respiratory System.....	255.1	161.5
Bronchitis .....	35.8	25.4
Pneumonia .....	135.9	96.2
Diseases of Digestive System.....	230.2	149.1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis.....	144.0	72.8
Cirrhosis of liver.....	18.5	11.8
Peritonitis .....	6.0	7.7
Appendicitis .....	13.0	6.6
Diseases of Genito-urinary System.....	144.8	99.9
Brights Disease and Nephritis.....	112.3	76.4
Violence .....	120.0	97.7

4. *Differences in death-rate between country and city exist relative to nativity.* Negroes appear to be especially susceptible to death conditions in cities. This is shown in table 4.

TABLE IV \*

DEATH-RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION, BY RACE, NATIVITY, AND NATIVITY OF PARENTS, IN COUNTRY AND CITY — 1900

	Total	White	Negro, Indian & Mon- golian	White		Native-White	
				Native	Foreign born	Both Parents native	One or both Parents Foreign born
Cities ..	18.6	18.4	27.6	18.3	18.5	17.5	19.0
Rural ..	15.4	15.3	19.0	14.9	17.8	15.6	12.7

Farmers and farm labourers register a lower death-rate than any other occupation, except that of boot and shoe workers.

\* *Twelfth Census*, Vol. III, pp. lvii, lxx, lxxiv, and 286.

**Contact with Nature.**— This is closely associated with out-of-door life but it is a distinct concept. We have the thought of the results on the psychical qualities of life which ensue from a close association with the things of the out-of-door world. Love of nature may well be the inheritance of the city-born and city-bred person. But how much such a nature would be enriched by a continuous association with the beauties of landscape, the sympathetic friendships of animal friends and dependents, the observations of growing plant and animal life, and the thrill arising from the powerful and spectacular demonstrations of nature's powers in storm and tempest. To the one who has the soul to respond there is no situation which offers a finer satisfaction and a more profound feeling of intimacy and kinship with the cosmos than that of being in the presence of springing grass and swelling bud of early spring. These are elements which appeal to the housed-up being and constantly threaten to draw him away to the country.

That the advantages of this contact with nature finds much appreciation on the part of those who dwell in the country is denoted by the replies of the Cornell students who had lived on the farm. Remarking on the replies received from those who expected to farm, the investigator says: "Nearly every one of them gives higher ideals of living as the propelling motive, and these ideals crystallise about two points,— the love of nature, and the desire of a free independent life."<sup>7</sup>

**Greater Exemption from Social Evils.**— The country is relatively free from certain social evils which beset the cities.

1. The "slum" with its attendant poverty, congestion, bad housing conditions, debauchery and vice is the usual concomitant of the cities of any considerable size. The country has hardly anything which corresponds to this, although there are occasional small communities which are backward and sometimes vicious. Outside the slum areas of the cities

<sup>7</sup> Bailey, "The Training of Farmers," pp. 123, 124, 135.

are other large regions where life conditions are but little better, where the population live on the very verge of dependency and to be out of work a few days is viewed as a calamity. The general conditions of country life are much better and safer. Only in restricted areas would a crop failure imperil the economic status.

2. There is also the "social evil," preëminently, which exists as a putrid sore in the midst of the average urban community. This scarcely exists in rural regions, at least in the open-air portions.

The advantageous position the rural region occupies relative to pathological conditions is made increasingly obvious by comparing it with city populations.

3. Statistics of the number of paupers in the United States are inadequate. The government reports cover those which are inmates of almshouses only. It is well known to charity workers and poor overseers that a very large proportion of dependents are cared for under the heading of "outdoor" relief. In many counties of the newer states almshouses have not been built. As a consequence relief work is of the "outdoor" kind. Hence an occupational distribution of paupers in almshouses gives but a partial index of the degree of country and urban pauperism. Yet it is valuable and probably approximately representative of what would be the case if we had complete data. It is found that in the year 1904 "agriculture, transportation, and other outdoor" occupations account for but 23.7 per cent. of all paupers at least ten years of age whose occupation prior to admission to the almshouse was known.<sup>8</sup> In other words, while the country possesses over one-half of the population, it produces less than one-fourth of the paupers of the nation.

4. No direct statistics of crime as distinctively rural or urban are available. The matter has to be arrived at by indirect methods. While the distribution of prisoners in the

<sup>8</sup> Special Census Report on "Paupers in Almshouses," Table XXVII.

penal institutions of the United States is not an absolute measure it is nevertheless a very good indication. We find that agriculture, transportation, and other outdoor occupations furnish but 17.2 per cent. of all male prisoners. When we remember that approximately 54 per cent. of our population dwells in the open country and in towns of 2,500 or less, and when we make a reduction of 17.2 per cent. because of the amount "transportation and other outdoor" occupations contribute, it becomes evident that the agricultural regions send to prisons a small minimum of what their population warrants. Relative to female prisoners the case is more vague. "All other occupations" in which agriculture is classed furnishes 9 per cent. of all female prisoners. What portion of these hail from the country is not known.<sup>9</sup>

5. General and reliable statistics of insanity are few. The national government offers us very little. An inspection of its data for 1880 and 1890 reveals practically nothing on whether country or city is the more productive of insanity. The total number of insane persons enumerated in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Central, South Central, and Western divisions in 1890 per 100,000 population were respectively, 238.6, 132.2, 164.8, 95.9, and 194.1; in 1880, 247.5, 151.1, 171.7, 125.7, and 200.8. The agricultural divisions, except the Western, register a lower rate than city divisions. California's excessively large rate in 1880 and that of California and Nevada in 1890 account for this exception.<sup>10</sup>

The census of 1890 shows that there were 1,700 insane persons for each million of the population, while in cities of over 50,000 there were 2,429 insane per million.<sup>11</sup> "The probabilities are that per capita of population there is less

<sup>9</sup> Special Census Report on "Prisoners and Juvenile Delinquents in Institutions," 1904, Tables XXVI and XXVII.

<sup>10</sup> Special Census Report on "Insane and Feeble-minded," p. 9, Table IV.

<sup>11</sup> C. A. Ellwood, "Sociology and Social Problems," p. 235.

insanity in the country than in the city. The report of the New York State Commission of Lunacy for the year 1908 shows that of all those admitted to the state hospitals 76.5 per cent. came from the city and 23.5 per cent. came from the country. From this statement we should expect to find about one-fourth of the patients with each form of insanity coming from the country. Such is not the case. The same report states that ninety per cent. of all the cases of general paralysis or softening of the brain "admitted in that year came from the cities; that 81 per cent. of insanity cases among the men produced by alcohol were from the city, while 96 per cent. of such cases among women hailed from that source. The country produces a larger portion of insanity known as "melancholia" and "senile dementia" (insanity of old age) than the city.<sup>12</sup>

6. According to the statistics of suicide which have been gathered in the registration area of the United States, suicides are much more frequent in urban than in rural communities. A study of statistics shows that suicides are generally about twice as numerous in cities as in the country. In only one instance, in Rhode Island for 1906, does the country show a larger percentage than cities.

7. The divorce-rate is the reverse of the marriage-rate in the great divisions of the United States. Out of twenty-eight states having city counties but three — New York, Pennsylvania, and Oregon — showed a larger country than city divorce-rate. The same condition has been generally true in the census decades from 1860 to 1900. At the census of 1900, city counties in these typical states showed an excess divorce rate per 100,000 population over rural counties as follows: Massachusetts 20, Maryland 27, Georgia 24, Indiana 99, Nebraska 96, Colorado 49, Washington 104.<sup>13</sup>

A further consideration shows that while the increase of

<sup>12</sup> "Rural Insanity," E. S. Ellwood, *Rural Manhood*, May, 1911, p. 144.

<sup>13</sup> Special Report on Marriages and Divorce, Vol. I, p. 18.

divorce rate has been greatest in city counties from 1870 to 1900 there has been a decided growth in that of other counties.<sup>14</sup>

8. The country is exempt from many of the special problems of utility corporations, of capital and labour, although it has its own labour problem, and from psychic epidemics and crazes to which the city is prone. It is beset with less of tendency to competition in ostentatious display which manifests itself in wasteful expenditures of fashion, in riotous feasting and entertaining, and in the various forms of conspicuous consumption brought about by social rivalry.

**Greater Possibility of Independence and of Individual Initiative.**—Farming is the freest and most independent of the larger callings of life. This does not mean that the agriculturist is not under restraint due to the social order. It does mean that he is less beholden to the immediate actions and attitudes, the beliefs, prejudices, and whims of his fellows in carrying on his work than most other workers. Given the ownership of his land or the possession as a renter for a year and within the year or years he conducts operations he is largely outside the immediate influences of other occupations, or other workers in his line. He is not likely to ejectionment and so long as he keeps within moral bounds he is possessor of almost unlimited liberty. Social conventions, political influence, threat of boycott, do not hinder him from undertaking and carrying out the processes of crop or plant culture as he sees fit.

What is true of the owner and manager also very largely obtains in the case of the hired labourer. While his tasks are set him from day to day he is usually sent to initiate and execute those tasks alone, and large possibilities of variety in execution and performance are open to him. His position is far different from that of the day labourer working under a boss or an artisan working in conjunction with a machine

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 19.



which constantly impose the exact prescriptions as to how the task is to be carried out.

**Scope for Scientific and Intellectual Development.**— It is often stated that the farmer is favourably situated to command the time and opportunity to become scientifically well informed and mature in his intellectual life. It would scarcely be disputed that the exceptional agriculturist is thus favourably placed. The farmer who has wealth enough to enable him to become manager of his undertaking, employing hired help to do the work, doubtless, if so disposed, would be able to carry on experimental work of a very valuable sort. Much of our agricultural advance has been brought about in this way. Such a farmer would also have much time for reading and meditation of an advanced sort.

The average farmer has little leisure for observation and experiment. He does the larger part of his own labour, his hours are long, and his energies are so spent that he is not prepared to carry on reading or heavy deliberation at night or on Sunday. There are many cases, however, of individuals who are situated so that while they are their own workmen and undertakers, they have used the winter months for reading along the lines of scientific agriculture; and in the cropping season they have put into effect the insight they have gained. These men have learned that a larger use of intellect and science in their farming operations shortens their hours of labour, lessens their work, and gives them larger possibilities of scientific and intellectual advance. Many of these men have become leaders of their communities in the associations of farmers and wield an influence which makes for progress. It is as great a satisfaction to meet a man of this type as to meet a successful and progressive business man. The same substantial qualities and alertness in a given field are conspicuous. The fact that men of this kind are multiplying augurs well for the future of rural communities.

**Better Conditions for Family Life.**—We must recognise the backwardness relative to country homes at the same time we note their advantages. The disadvantages will be presented later. The chief favourable items are the following.

1. A safe place to rear children. There is relative freedom from contaminating associations of the more vicious and perilous sort. The country has occasional bad characters. It may have lower ideals in matters of conversation than the best sections of the cities. But it has no festering sores of immorality and it is comparatively free from gangs of young criminals who contaminate the play of childhood. Childhood in the country is not subject to the danger of those radical or continuous evils which beset the city.

2. Country home life offers a saner and more practical training for children than does that of the city. One of the recognised shortcomings of city life lies in the inability of the homes to yield the practical training which after life will demand. The schools have been academic. The homes have nothing for the boys to do outside of school hours. Hence one of the newer educational demands has been manual training as a means of giving this practical element. The country boy does not lack here. There is plenty to do. Chores of one sort or another exist to keep him busy during holidays and vacations. These are a very part of the business of farming. They employ the time of the boys, keep them out of evil associations, and secure a valuable factor in training.

3. Training through family coöperation. Unlike the city family, all members of the country family have something to do. In towns probably the eldest girl may participate in the household work. The younger daughters and the sons have practically no household or domestic function. On the farm a division of labour exists, each member taking his or her place as soon as old enough. The institution expands as fast as active members are developed. All coöperate for the

common purpose of keeping the institution running. This offers a valuable feature in building the ethical and social qualities of citizenship, although on a narrow basis.

## II. DISADVANTAGES OF FARM LIFE

The best way to get problems settled is to face all the facts in the situation, however grave and disagreeable. It cannot be denied that farming has its drawbacks. These have been exploited and perhaps may have been exaggerated.

**The Economic Disadvantages.**—Of the 155 replies to the question, "Why do boys leave the farm?" put to students of Cornell University, 62 said that farming does not pay; there is no money in it.

Is this true? It is true in this sense. There is not the possibility of making the extremely large fortunes that there is in industry or commerce. Farmers as such seldom get to be millionaires and multi-millionaires. There is not the opportunity for exploitation of other classes that exists — unfortunately — in the business world. Agriculture is not a business that lends itself readily to amassing large profits through speculative undertakings. Persons viewing farming as a means to gain great wealth in a little time should look elsewhere. However such ideals of life are low, and it is to be hoped that in the not remote future no line of human undertaking will remain so exempt from state control as to offer such a field.

While agriculture does not present the chance to obtain great fortunes in a few years, which is commonly the index of illegitimacy in business, it does promise a comfortable living for most of those who engage in it; and a substantial increase in wealth from year to year. Occasionally, in portions of our nation, farmers have grown wealthy within a few years. There is no other business which makes as good a living for as great a number as farming.

The relative defencelessness of farmers against the en-

croachments of other classes is a point made against farming. It is indeed a legitimate objection. To be charged higher prices and interest rates than others pay, to be numerically strong and productive of the larger part of traffic for the railways of the nation and yet to have traffic rates imposed at will by railway managers is certainly disadvantageous. In some of these things the farming class is not alone. Most other users of transportation facilities are quite as helpless as to control of rates. Teachers, lawyers, doctors, and others also, have to bear the same prices for goods in the country towns and villages. Besides, farmers enjoy much in the way of fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, poultry, rent, of which they take no account.

**Physical Labour.**—The hard work connected with farming is often invoked against it. Those who have lived on farms will probably grant that this accusation is true. It obtains for both men and women. As agriculture has been conducted, it has been characterised by long hours of labour under disagreeable conditions. At times there is likely to be a special rush of work, when everyone, who is old enough to do anything, is drafted; and the measure of the day is from dark to dark. Such times are seeding, harvesting, haying, and threshing. The appropriate climatic conditions must be seized. Should they pass great loss might ensue.

Certain of these times are likely to be strenuous for women. At those critical points additional farm labour is engaged. This imposes more work in food preparation, waiting on table, dishwashing, and care of sleeping places. Some of the chores may also fall upon the housekeepers to give the men more time in the fields.

There are also forms of farm activities which are rated as exceptionally arduous. Such are pitching grain and hay — especially some of the long grasses such as timothy and German millet; shocking grain; clearing ground of stumps and stones; husking corn, particularly in very cold weather when

the hands are checked and sore; and in household work, washing, ironing, and cooking for large crews of workers.

There are frequent disagreeable conditions under which work must be done. Working in the field in windy, dusty weather, when eyes and nostrils are clogged with dust and the skin made to sting by the driving particles is one of the most disagreeable tasks. Frequently the work must be carried on under conditions of cold or of rain which make it not only disagreeable but detrimental to health. Then, also, the farmer who keeps some stock and garden has additional labour. The milking of cows, the care of the work- and other horses, the feeding of the hogs, constitute the chores of evening and morning which make such a drain on time and energy.

It may be questioned, however, if the life of the farmer is at all to be compared for severity with that of the miners, of railway workers, of factory men,—especially in steel and other metal mills—and of teamsters. It is also probable that farmers put in unnecessarily long hours. A tradition has come down from the past that the day must extend from sun to sun or from twilight to twilight. The pace is likely to be reduced in proportion to the length of the day. Some farmers work short hours and increase the pace in a corresponding measure. They accomplish as much and have a larger leisure.

**Social Disadvantages.**—The lack of the larger associational privileges is one of the greatest handicaps to agriculture. The work of the farm is carried on for most part in isolation. Where a life with social advantages presents itself farming is likely to become correspondingly distasteful. Much of the arduous labour of the world, such as the underground work of mining, is rendered bearable by the presence of other workers. On farms, the times when a number of persons are thrown together, as in threshing, is looked upon as a kind of oasis in an otherwise barren life. Could the

work of agriculture be carried on in groups it would no doubt be rendered thereby more attractive.

Beyond the isolatedness of conducting the necessary activities, the hours of leisure and rest are deprived of the larger associational opportunities. There are no common lounging places where the workers meet. It takes effort to go to a neighbour's for comradeship when he lives the equivalent of a score of blocks away. The neighbouring of women is thereby restricted. The next door neighbour, where one would like to "run in" for a few minutes daily, is across farms.

Social gatherings and places of meeting are infrequent. Few people or none pass the farm. The multitudes of ways and places of meeting of the city are absent. Life seems monotonous, lean, and lonesome to those who love friendship and companionship.

Undertakings of the humanitarian and associational sort are almost wholly absent. The chance to shine in society, the opportunity to become famous by acting, speaking, writing, discovering, seem to be in cities. Benevolent and welfare work are evidently little called for where people make a living and do not congest in slums. Life does not, on the surface, offer opportunities of fame, greatness, or nobility of character.

**Personal Characteristics which Come from Isolation.**— It is not to be supposed that dwelling apart as farmers do creates any inherent or intrinsic differentiating effects in their minds. In constitution and structure the mind of the farmer is not different from that of the urban resident. The framework of the minds of human beings under quite diverse circumstances remain similar. Ethnologists hold that the minds of primitive peoples are, in constitution and framework, identical with those of civilised men. It is the divergence in the technique which surrounds and offers opportunity for development to the individuals of the respective groups which explains the differences of mind.

Probably most of the characteristics which obtain among farming populations may be accounted for in terms of isolation and occupation. Concerning isolation, we have to deal only with the relative form, and we need not look for the effects which arise from absolute isolation such as is seen in solitary confinement, or in herding often. We have previously noted the opposing views which are maintained as to whether farming communities are more or less addicted to mob-mindedness than those of the city. In cases where they seem to be it is to be explained by the homogeneity of the population rather than by its isolation. Among the more undesirable traits of farming populations may be mentioned those given by Butterfield, namely, conservatism, and, at times, intense radicalism, deep-seated prejudices, and a tendency to brood over more or less imaginary injuries.

The farmer is in direct contact with the operation of the elements of nature and doubtless his mind is influenced by the way the forces work, by the routine of the seasons, the course and force of the winds, the dependence of crops and his prosperity on rainfall and other climatic conditions. Crop failures and poor prices for products often account for changing political views. Dependence on the mechanism of Nature, on the time of the opening of spring and the arrival of winter, on the quality of the season for growing and maturing produce, on bounteous yields or failures, all of which phenomena are beyond his control, is calculated to impress the farmer's mind with the necessary order of the universe. It may make him moody, discouraged, pessimistic, fatalistic, and resigned.

There is a notable characteristic of farm women which distinguishes them from city women and which may or may not be considered a disadvantage, according to the point of view maintained. It is that she depends less on display in the way of dress, equipage, and house furnishings than on tracing her lineage to some remote ancestor. Her family

stock, line, or name is looked to to give superiority in social matters.

This characteristic is evidently the result of living where apparel of a rich and impressive nature, or elegant carriage and horses, or exquisitely furnished house have very little opportunity of striking admiration and envy into other feminine hearts. Exhibiting the height of a family tree is more possible in the country, and whether or not superior ethically to the other form of ostentation, it at least has the advantage of being more economical.

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## CHAPTER VII

### IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The subject of this chapter, from an economic point of view, might include almost everything which may be said relative to rural social betterment. It is likely that if all matters of living pertaining to the home, the school, the church, the neighbourhood, to refining tastes and heightening culture, could be improved and put into operation, not only would country existence be raised in attractiveness and satisfaction, but the material gains from the occupation of agriculture would be significantly increased. Our purpose is to view the matter from the sociological direction and show not only what agricultural improvement consists in, but what it means for the life of civilisation and the farm.

#### I. SOCIOLOGICAL IMPLICATION OF AGRICULTURE

**Importance of Applying Social Achievements.**—Sociology considers society in its wholeness, and the acts and work of individuals as influencing the quality of the group or groups to which they belong. It is essentially a value study. Consequently rural sociology must consider agriculture on its material side in so far as it is seen to affect the quality of collective life. What it treats relative to methods of farming is in the way of demonstrating the truth of its position that farming can and ought to be improved so that the larger interests of life may thrive accordingly.

There is a direct connection between man's inventive powers and social evolution. Man's inventive genius is absorbed chiefly in discovering agencies and methods by means of which the forces of nature may be mastered by man and put to

work for him. From the fact that material civilisation has doubled and trebled during the last hundred years, we may also conclude that the ratio of the increase of civilisation bears some proportion to the cultivation of the inventive powers and of their application to the control of nature. If the essence of society consists in achievements, this becomes quite apparent. Achievements are ways or means of accomplishing things. They are not material but ideal, and consist of the plans or intellectual principles according to which material and other instruments are built. Civilisation consists of all these ideal existences. Material inventions are not the only achievements.

Others are seen in political or governmental devices, those which consist of plans for regulating the actions of men by collective action; social devices for amelioration by private enterprise; literary devices as seen in plans for articles and books; and so on. But while all are important, their influence in changing conditions of life and in producing progress are far less than the inventions which are directed to the control of nature. The civilisation which may be roughly termed "spiritual," consisting in the speculative and dogmatic elements, are conditioned by the others. They do not change fundamental situations of life as do the others. Compare Oriental society where philosophy and faiths have flourished for ages, as never in the western world, with western society after the invention of the railway. The former has remained inert and passive. It seems powerless before the advances of the Occident, notwithstanding the hundreds of millions of people whom it includes.

The amount of subsistence of a given region increases with the improvement of scientific methods. As an illustration of this let a comparison be made of the population any one of our states or the whole United States could support previous to the settlement by Europeans and what they support now. The aborigines who inhabited America were in a stage

of barbarism and upper savagery. They hunted, fished, and pursued crude methods of agriculture. It is estimated that the total population of the United States amounted to between one and two million people. Not a very much greater population could have been sustained with the methods in use. Where then a few thousand souls resided we now count our people by the million. This has been made possible by utilising the land and resources in a closer and more intense manner. The increase has come about through the progress which has been made in applied science, particularly in scientific agriculture.

Our population has abundant room for growth when we become scientific in our agricultural methods. Each farmer will farm less land, but he will raise as much as now and several agriculturists will live and work where now there is one. Granting that the preceding statement is true in essential characteristics, it becomes evident that the social advance of rural regions is, to an important degree, dependent on the progress of their material conditions. Other things being equal, the community which manifests most vigour and progress in improving its methods of production, will also be likely to show the greatest vigour and vitality in promoting its general social welfare. The "sinews of war," the substance and means necessary to develop a high grade of school, of church, of culture, and entertainment, must come out of the soil; and it is the scientific and progressive community which comes into possession of those means.

**Benefits of Improved Foods.**— Besides affecting his own immediate group welfare, as well as his own, by the amount and quality of his production, the farmer also touches the health and vigour of the larger social world in these matters. He should be well informed on food values because he is in the business of supplying food for the sustenance of the world. "He is preëminently the purveyor of the race. If the material which he provides falls below normal, the race to a

proportionate degree loses in vitality. If he maintains the integrity of the elements in his products, permanency is secured. If he increases the nutritive value of his food supplies so that when prepared for the table they will afford so many more units of what is best for the body, so many more of muscular strength, so many of vitality, then he is leading the world upward in the betterment of his crops." Men are now engaging in the study of foods with great zest. In nearly all institutions of higher learning attention is given to it. "Scientific men, realising not only that great additions to human knowledge should follow researches along this line, but that out of the investigation should come vast good for the race, have followed these lines of work with keen interest. To-day the results of these investigations may be the property of the tillers of the soil." <sup>1</sup>

The economic results of food value improvements should be considerable to the farmer. And better foods must prove conducive to the lessening of dyspepsia, indigestion, and all ailments which flow out of poor foods. This would wonderfully increase the sum of happiness of the human world.

## II. ILLUSTRATIONS OF GAINS FROM SCIENCE APPLIED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

**General Increase in Production.**—The apprehension that our nation will soon become dependent on other nations for food supplies has been alluded to in an early chapter. This apprehension has as its foundation the decreasing exports from this country of food stuffs, the probable increase of population in the next few decades, the rise in prices of food, and what is termed the defertilisation of the soil by poor methods of farming. If we may trust the statements made by governmental experts in agriculture there exists no immediate need for this apprehension; although there are

<sup>1</sup> Harwood, "New Earth," Chap. 14.

profound reasons for inculcating a widespread knowledge of more intelligent methods of production.

“There has been an almost constant increase in the average production per acre of all of the principal crops in the United States during the last twenty years. This does not appear in every state for all varieties of crops, but it is particularly noticeable in the great staples. For example, during the twenty years from 1886 to 1905 the average production of corn per acre increased at a rate which quite or very nearly equalled the actual increase of population in ten states; the average yield of wheat per acre increased more rapidly than the population in twenty-two states; oats, sixteen states; barley, fifteen states; rye, twenty-one states; buckwheat, eighteen states; potatoes, fifteen states, and hay, twenty-five states. . . . The failure of the increase in the cotton and tobacco crops to keep up with the increase in population is due more to the disposition of the growers than to the condition of the soil. . . .

“A marked change in the production per acre of all crops appeared in the decade 1896–1905 in comparison with the mean of the preceding ten years. The production per acre of corn increased 7.7 per cent.; of wheat, 6.3 per cent.; of oats, 15.6 per cent.; of barley, 11.1 per cent.; of rye, 21.3 per cent.; of buckwheat, 23.1 per cent.; of hay, 22 per cent.; of potatoes, 15.3 per cent.; of cotton, 3.8 per cent.; and of tobacco, 5.2 per cent.”

From 1906 to 1909 weather conditions were unfavourable to a few crops. “In the case of other crops the mean production per acre continued to show large increases, the mean of these four years over that of the preceding ten years being an increase of 7.1 per cent. for corn, 9.6 per cent. for wheat, 6.5 per cent. for rye, 6.6 per cent. for buckwheat, 15.5 per cent. for potatoes, and 9.7 per cent. for tobacco.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Quoted by Wm. E. Curtis in the *Chicago Record-Herald*, March 4, 1911.

**Coöperative Demonstration Work.**—Advances in yields of crops have been due to enlightened methods of production. The Bureau of Plant Industry of the national Department of Agriculture in 1904 inaugurated in the South what came to be called The Farmers' Coöperative Demonstration Work. This has been extended to other parts of the nation since then. The coöperation is chiefly between individual farmers and the Government, although it also obtains between farmers.

"An agent goes into a territory and seeks a hard-working farmer, who, like his neighbours, fails from year to year in his crop. He persuades this man to sign a contract to work a small portion of his farm, usually an acre, according to Government directions. This plot is called a 'demonstration farm,' and the farmer who cultivates it according to agreement a 'demonstrator' or 'coöperator.' . . . By his own work on an acre of ground under the scientific instructions of the Government, the man's life has been transformed, the lives of his children lifted to a higher plane, and conditions controlling the industry he represents made new for all time. The reason is plain. The acre which during the thirty years of his farming has never before produced more than fifteen bushels of corn, or one-fourth of a bale of cotton, has now produced seventy-five bushels of corn, or a bale of cotton. In some cases the sale of seed from this one acre will finance his entire crop the following year."

The general results of this coöperative plan and of improved methods of farming are impressive.

"The Demonstration Work extended over 53,436 acres cultivated in cotton and 39,058 in corn. The cotton represented an increase of about 13,750 bales and the corn 609,304 bushels. If the cotton averaged \$60 a bale and the corn 80 cents a bushel, the gain on the former was \$825,000 and on the latter \$486,643.20, a total of \$1,311,643.20. A large number of coöperators and demonstrators made no report upon which accurate statistics could be based, and the gain

here shown is estimated to be about one-third of the actual gain, which means that nearly four million dollars above what they are accustomed to make went into the pockets of the farmers who used the Demonstration methods last year. And this does not represent the whole gain, because the cost of production was less. . . .”<sup>3</sup>

**Use of Fertilisers.**— It might be expected that decidedly advantageous results would be gained from the use of fertilisers. Much has been written of the benefits to be derived from the inoculation of the soil with nitrogen fixing bacteria. The matter is in dispute, some experts holding that this particular form of fertilisation largely increases production; others arguing that climate, rainfall, peculiarity of season, and cultivation, operate so influentially that any increase may be due to them. Cornell College investigations show “that the use of lime by promoting nitrification, particularly in connection with a legume, increases the nitrogenous substance in both the legume and the non-legume, thereby materially increasing the food value of all these substances, and consequently adding materially to the value of the crop.”

Nebraska Agricultural College investigations state:

“Reports from thirty-one Nebraska farmers from 1906 to 1908 show that they had an average yield of thirty-four and one-half bushels of corn per acre on land before seeding it to clover and alfalfa and sixty-eight and two-tenths bushels when the field was ploughed up and again planted to corn. Coöperative fertiliser tests carried on by this department on Nebraska farms show that the plots which were not treated averaged twenty-five bushels of corn per acre, while the ones to which barnyard manure had been added gave an average yield of thirty-six and one-half bushels.”

**Elimination of Pests.**— The United States Government Department of Agriculture has developed what is termed the science of parasitology. It has discovered that plant pests

<sup>3</sup> *Review of Reviews*, November, 1910, p. 570.

may be combated by means of parasites which naturally prey upon them. By coöperation with the Government farmers may secure relief from the disasters of particular pests whose parasitic enemies have been definitely discovered. The San José scale has been successfully combated by the importation of a red and black lady-bird from Australia, the *Noviris Cardinalis*, thus saving the orange crops of California. The boll-weevil, the fatal enemy of the cotton plant, is being combated with considerable success by an ichneumon fly which was the natural parasite of the rag weed weevil. By the destruction of adjoining rag weeds at the proper season the fly is made to deposit its eggs in the boll-weevil, with the result that from thirty to sixty per cent. of the pests have been destroyed where the work was carefully done. The Hessian fly has been reduced by furnishing a sufficient supply of its parasite, a winged midget known as *Polygnatus*. Parasites to successfully oppose the ox warble, the chinch bug, the flour moth, the army moth, the striped cucumber beetle, the home-breaking moth, the peach tree borer, the house fly, and other pests remain to be discovered.

The enormous losses sustained from the operation of various pests may be seen from this statement of their annual depredations made by the United States Department of Agriculture, Table V.

TABLE V  
LOSS FROM INSECTS

Cereals .....	\$200,000,000
Hay .....	53,000,000
Cotton .....	60,000,000
Tobacco .....	5,300,000
Truck crops .....	53,000,000
Sugars .....	5,000,000
Fruits .....	27,000,000
Farm forests .....	11,000,000
Miscellaneous crops .....	5,800,000
Animal products .....	175,000,000
Natural forests and forest products.....	100,000,000
<b>Total for the United States.....</b>	<b>\$795,100,000</b>



The annual value of all the products in these lines when the estimate was made equalled \$5,551,000,000. The loss in those lines runs from ten to fifty per cent. This takes no account of the loss of employee's wages, that arising from attempted protection, injury to enterprises, and other items.<sup>4</sup>

**Benefits from Improved Farm Machinery.**— We shall elsewhere consider the benefits, in certain aspects, to be derived from the use of machinery on the farm. In this section our attention will be confined to the gains to production which its larger use entails.

By means of the investment of capital in the form of machinery the time and attention of a man is made doubly or trebly productive. In agriculture this has been manifestly true in the case of several, if not all, machines which have been devised for farm use. Perhaps the invention and adoption of the harvesting machine exemplifies this as forcibly as any other. This invention opened up the prairies of the West to cultivation and moved the tide of civilisation across the continent towards the Rockies decades and perhaps generations earlier than otherwise could have been the case. No doubt other implements, such as the improved plough, the cultivator, the drill, the thresher, and so on, have a share in this notable triumph. But it is readily seen, that in the use of the old form of harvesting and winnowing by means of the cradle and flail the labour of multitudes of our population would have been consumed which was actually released for further production.

The extent of the economies effected in production under the era of machine agriculture is thus stated: "To illustrate this, it is only necessary to state that in 1830 it required over three hours of labour to raise one bushel of wheat while in 1896 it required ten minutes, making a saving in the cost of labour in one bushel of wheat equal to the difference between 17¾ cents and 3½ cents. In 1850 the labour represented

<sup>4</sup> Harwood, "The New Earth," p. 101.

in a bushel of corn was four and one-half hours, while in 1894 it had been reduced to forty-one minutes. In 1860 the labour in one ton of hay in bales represented thirty-five and one-half hours, while in 1894 this labour was reduced to eleven and one-half hours, or from a cost of \$3 in labour to \$1.29."

As late as 1845 the people of the United States did not raise enough wheat for bread. "With the advent of the steel plough, the self-binding harvester, and the steam threshing machine there was a marked change in the producing power of the American people. The food supply increased from 4.33 bushels of wheat per person in 1845 to 5.5 bushels in 1859, 7.45 bushels in 1869, and became as high as 10 bushels in 1889." At the same time the country lost in population relatively, 33 per cent. being on farms in 1900. The farmers produced enough food for themselves, for the other 67 per cent., and exported \$960,000,000 worth in 1904. The larger part of this was due to improvement of farm machinery.

"A 110-horse-power machine ploughs, sows, and harrows at the same time a strip 30 feet wide at the rate of three or four miles an hour, turning over the soil at the rate of 80 to 100 acres a day, or under favourable conditions 10 to 12 acres an hour. It thus performs work which ordinarily requires 40 or 50 teams and men."<sup>5</sup>

The adoption of tractors on the farm is regarded as not only desirable but economical. Light motor tractors for all sorts of farm work, from ploughing in the field to hauling a load of hay to market, are among the novel developments in power vehicles for industrial purposes. A net saving of more than \$100 a month with one of these tractors is reported. The same amount of work was performed with a three-ton farm tractor as could be done with four wagons and

<sup>5</sup> "Farm Machinery as Labour Saver," C. J. Zinthes, "Encyl. of Amer. Agr.," I, pp. 208-209.

four teams. The original investment in the tractor was \$2,500 as against \$1,808 in the wagons, horses, and eight sets of harness, showing an initial extra expense of \$692.

The total cost of operation and maintenance of four teams and four wagons is given as \$424.73, while that of the tractor was actually only \$321.29. This shows a net saving of \$103.44. At this rate the difference in original investment would be wiped out in less than seven months, and at the end of the first year there would be a clear profit of \$549.28 over and above the difference in the first cost. In two years the tractor would pay for itself in the saving in cost of operation and upkeep.

Abundant promise of a wide and successful application of electricity to the needs of the farm is held out by agricultural engineers. The farmer is a large user of power; he employs more implements and a greater variety of mechanical devices than anybody else. But until lately his unfamiliarity with power apparatus and the machinery manufacturer's unfamiliarity with farm methods and needs have stood in the way of an adjustment advantageous to both sides. This difficulty is now in a fair way of being overcome.

Isolated plants, comprising complete outfits driven by gas engines, are now on the market and are being widely introduced. Several central-station extension systems have been established in middle Illinois, from which electricity is being sold to farmers at the same rates as prevail in neighbouring towns. The day is at hand when a liberal supply of both light and power will be at the farmer's disposal. A speaker at a recent national meeting of engineers made the prediction that the farmer of the future would make his switch-board his general headquarters.

In these circumstances the contention is properly made that agricultural colleges should take a more progressive stand as regards the increasing use of electrical appliances on farms and should make agricultural engineering a more important

feature of their curricula. Progress in farming and the improvement of the rural districts both depend in increasing measure on the recognition of this need.

**Other Examples.**—Interesting facts exist to indicate how other items of farm production may be bettered. New York State Agricultural College investigations have demonstrated that by “weeding out” inferior cows the returns from a herd was more than doubled; which, if extended over the state of New York would register a net increase to dairymen of \$60,840,000 a year. Its investigations in butter-making indicate that the creamery business can be made much more profitable, increasing the moisture of butter from that of 9 per cent. to 14 per cent.; that poultry-raising can be profitably improved; and that beneficial results of a decided nature arise from agricultural surveys. Irrigation, conservation of moisture by special methods or “dry farming,” the drainage of swamps, and of low wet land to increase the yield, co-operation for the destruction of weeds, the destruction of rats the loss from which is said to be greater than from all other injurious mammals combined, the conservation and protection of useful birds, the treatment of special diseases of plants and of animals, are other items which the progressive farmer must consider in order to guard and advance his productive power.

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## CHAPTER VIII

### IMPROVEMENT OF THE BUSINESS SIDE OF FARMING

#### I. FARM MANAGEMENT

The statements which were made in the first part of the preceding chapter to demonstrate the social bearing of the increase of production need not be repeated here. It will be sufficient to remark that the business side of farming may prove to be an indispensable factor in bringing about any great advance in agricultural production. It affords a field for the exercise of brains. Foresight, acumen, and broad intelligence are primary elements in making agriculture a business as well as a science. Some of the phases of farm management appear identical with those of scientific production and the use of machinery which were previously considered.

**Organisation of Factors of Production.**—An important field of farm management is the organisation of the various factors to be used relative to each other. This includes, first, the proportion in which the factors of production shall be brought together. That means the “quantities of labour and capital-goods which should be expended upon a given area of land, the quantity of labour which should be associated with a given quantity of capital-goods, and the quantity of land, labour, and capital-goods which should be put under one management in order that the best results shall be attained.” Second, the qualities of the above factors, of land, labour, and capital-goods, must be considered. The manager of the farm must determine what grades of land, labourers, horses, machines, and so on should be associated together.

The farmer and farm manager, whether they are combined

in one person or are separate functionaries, must view the undertaking of running a farm just as a banker would view a project of banking or a manufacturer would look upon prospective or actual manufacture. These individuals would look upon the respective business as an investment for their capital and ability. The business must be adjusted to the size of the field, and its different branches must be prosecuted on the exact scale, in that proportion relative to other branches, which will realise the largest return on the investment.

The average farmer certainly has not viewed himself as a capitalistic manager. He has often in a vague manner suspected that he was doing poorly. He has bemoaned his hard state in having to labour through the year and come to its end with little or nothing to show for it. In fact many farmers do not thrive as they should; and if they critically investigated all the facts in the case they would change their mode of existence or their method of procedure. A farmer in one of the West Central states recently stated that his yearly savings was only fifty or one hundred dollars. He was entire owner of an unencumbered farm of eighty acres, exceptionally rich in fertility and all in cultivation. Besides that, he rented an equivalent amount which he tilled. He raised as good crops as any of his neighbours, is steady, industrious, and saving.

The managerial side of this farmer's life is deficient. His investment is probably five thousand dollars. He puts in, besides, his ability and labour. Yet he only about makes a living. Counting interest on investment and his labour, he invests something like \$1,200 a year in his business. In rent, food, and clothes he takes out about \$600. According to this rough calculation he is loser by about \$500 a year. This case is typical of the great majority of farmers. It is to be remembered that these men and their families have a right to enjoy many things they do not have and to maintain a larger social life. It becomes plain, consequently, that

their attention should be directed to the consideration of their business as an investment; to discovering how they may make the best association of the factors of land, labour, and capital-goods; to the selection of these as to their quality; in short, how they may improve their management so as to make farming a profitable undertaking.

**Farm Accounting.**— If community and individual welfare depends on the degree of profitability of agriculture, and if the profit is contingent on knowing the grade and quantity of the factors of production which are to be associated with each other in the enterprise, as well as how to fertilise, seed and cultivate in the best way, it is apparent that some method of keeping account of the results arising in connection with the various items is needed in order that a reckoning may be made. Farm accounting would consist of an itemised record of expenditures and income. The record of cost in producing a given crop would cover interest on investment in land, horses, and machinery, taxes, depreciation of machinery, value of seed and of labour, and cost of marketing. Besides this, a record of the kind of land the crops were produced on, of the quality of seed, time of seeding, kind of season, and methods of cultivation, form necessary data in determining the best method of organising and conducting the farm. Against the investment would be placed the income derived from the output at market prices. Some means of keeping trace of market conditions might prove valuable.

Several forms of accounting or book-keeping have been adapted to farming purposes. Single and double ledger, blank books, and cards are represented. The discussion of their relative merits is out of place in this work. The remark may be made, however, that the simpler the method the better. Complicated systems would not be useable for current purposes.

Another form of keeping records is what is termed "estate



accounting." It is largely used in England where large farms remain in the same hands for long periods of time. "This type is in the nature of a consecutive record, from owner to owner, accompanied by maps and plans of the subdivisions of the property, with an idea to permanency of results." It may belong to private parties or educational institutions. "The performance of the different fields or subdivisions may be determined through a long series of years." "This plan or kind of farm accounting relates the farm in a very positive way to the welfare of the community, and therefore affords a basis for social studies."<sup>1</sup>

**Methods of Deriving Items of Information.**—As illustrations of the manner in which the items entering into the records of production are derived, some instances will be given from investigations in Minnesota and Nebraska. The facts in themselves are interesting and valuable since they show the methods of deriving such information and the progress which is being made in that direction.

In 1902 the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, in coöperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, located employés at stations in three of the most typical and important farming regions of that state. In each region eight to ten farmers were selected to act as "coöperators." The "route statistician," who was an employé of the Department, visited them daily and obtained data from the manager. Inventories were taken on each farm at the beginning and end of each year. Scales were used in making inventories of stock. Comparison was made on the acreage basis, for a considerable period of time, because it is subject to fewer variations than is the ton and bushel basis. The results obtained are presented in tables 6-11. Several tables are reproduced because they offer facts which are not generally accessible. It is believed that they will explain themselves.

<sup>1</sup> "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture," IV: 215-16.

TABLE VI<sup>2</sup>

AVERAGE COST OF FARM BOARD PER MONTH AND PER DAY, 1905-1906

	Month	Day
S. E. Minnesota.....	\$12.27	\$0.409
S. W. Minnesota.....	11.90	.396
N. W. Minnesota.....	11.06	.368

TABLE VII<sup>2</sup>

RATES PER HOUR FOR LABOR BY THE MONTH, 1904, 1905, 1906

Month	Cents
January .....	\$0.1076
February .....	.1136
March .....	.0962
April .....	.1181
May .....	.1171
June .....	.1252
July .....	.1283
August .....	.1187
September .....	.1226
October .....	.1222
November .....	.1266
December .....	.1065

TABLE VIII<sup>2</sup>HOURS WORKED PER DAY BY MEN AND HORSES ON STATISTICAL ROUTE AT  
NORTHFIELD, MARSHALL, AND HALSTEAD, MINNESOTA

Average for three years, 1902, 1903, 1904

Month	Daily		Sunday
	Man	Horse	Man
January .....	6.57	1.20	4.22
February .....	6.48	1.22	4.16
March .....	7.59	1.41	4.03
April .....	9.67	4.47	3.71
May .....	8.69	4.04	3.10
June .....	9.22	3.49	2.82
July .....	9.23	3.33	2.72
August .....	9.79	4.81	2.66
September .....	10.11	4.18	2.79
October .....	9.67	4.35	2.79
November .....	8.94	3.11	3.43
December .....	7.17	1.38	4.33
Average .....	8.59	3.08	3.40

<sup>2</sup> "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture," IV: 232-9.

TABLE IX \*

YEARLY COST OF KEEPING HORSE AND RATES PER HOUR OF HORSE LABOUR

Average for 1905 and 1906

	Total Cost	Rate per Hour
S. E. Minnesota.....	\$80.14	\$0.090
S. W. Minnesota.....	78.06	.082
N. W. Minnesota.....	72.93	.075

TABLE X \*

VALUES CONSUMED PER ACRE FOR FARM MACHINERY

(Made up from the several columns given)

Machines	Minn. Av.	Sabin (Clay Co.)	Large Farm in N. W. Minn.
Grain machinery			
Binders .....	.168		
Reapers .....			.051
Drills and seeders.....	.080		
Fanning mills .....	.028		
Grain tanks .....			.009
Wagons, sleds, and racks....	.042		
Corn machinery			
Binders .....	.666		
Planters .....	.092		
Cultivators .....	.109		
Wagons, sleds, racks.....	.095		
Potato machinery			
Ploughs .....		.0520	
Harrows .....		.0140	
Wagons .....		.0580	
Sorters .....		.0142	
Diggers .....		.2470	
Weeders .....		.0307	
Cultivators .....		.0228	
Sprayers .....		.0700	
Planters .....		.0830	
All crop machinery			
Ploughs .....	.068		
Harrows .....	.014		
Disks .....	.061		

\* "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture," IV: 232-9.

Machines	Minn. Ar.	Sabin (Clay Co.)	Large Farm in N. W. Minn.
Threshing outfits .....			.288
Hay machinery			
Mowers .....	.213		
Rakes .....	.094		
Wagons, sleds, racks.....	.076		

TABLE XI<sup>4</sup>

## FORAGE CROPS. COST OF PRODUCTION AND FEEDING VALUE

Crop	Cost of produc- tion per acre	Feeding value per ton	Average Yields		Maximum Yields	
			Per acre tons	Feeding value per acre	Yield per ton, acre	Feeding value per acre
Clover and timothy ....	\$ 6.96	\$6.35	2½	\$15.87	3	\$19.05
Fodder corn ...	12.19	4.90	3½	17.15	4	19.60
Ensilage .....	19.173	1.80	10	18.80	12	22.56
Mangels .....	34.12	1.30	20	26.00	30	39.00

The Agricultural College of Nebraska used a different method for collecting facts. The Department of Agronomy corresponded with a large number of farmers living in various portions of the state in the endeavour to find out the cost of producing crops under Nebraska conditions. Two of the eight tables in which the results are summarised are given because they represent such positive results relative to growing oats and wild hay.

TABLE XII<sup>5</sup>

## COST OF GROWING OATS (PER ACRE)

Year .....	1909.....	1910	Average
Number of Replies.....	120.....	149	135
Interest and taxes (or rent)....	\$4.693	\$5.164	\$4.928
Ploughing .....	1.175	1.004	1.089
Harrowing .....	.272	.299	.285
Disking .....	.503	.612	.557
Seed .....	1.349	.908	1.128

<sup>4</sup> "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture," IV: 232-9.<sup>5</sup> Bulletin of the Agr. Exp. Sta. of Nebraska, Vol. XXIII, Article VII.

Seeding .....	.448	.350	.399
Harvesting .....	1.949	1.932	1.940
Interest and depreciation on machinery .....	.490	.63	.586
Miscellaneous .....	.561	.379	.470
Total cost per acre.....	11.440	11.331	11.385
Yield per acre.....	34.6 bu.	35.5 bu.	35 bu.
Cost per bushel.....	.33¢	31.9¢	32.5¢

TABLE XIII <sup>c</sup>

COST OF GROWING HAY (1909) (PER ACRE)

	Wild Hay	Clover	Alfalfa
Number of Replies	104	75	114
Interest and taxes (or rent) .....	\$3.925	\$5.282	\$5.196
Labour of cutting and stacking... ..	2.586	3.010	4.878
Interest and depreciation on machinery .....	.211	.246	.256
Total cost per acre.....	6.722	8.538	10.33
Acreage yield .....	1.25 T.	2.04 T.	3.33 T.
Cost per ton.....	5.37	4.18	3.13

It is open to question whether farmers generally will adopt a systematic method of accounting and keeping record. The process involves much system and care, to which few agriculturists are adapted. It has been suggested by an eminent writer that the women of the farm are more fitted to do this work than the men. But they would have to be equipped by special training and with large comprehension to carry it out.

Perhaps the adoption by farmers of the standardised results which have been worked out by experts will be found to be more available. Such information, when placed in the hands of intelligent men, could be used as guides in the conduct of their operations.

Even a better alternative is developing. Voluntary associations of farmers and business men are coöperating in Illinois, North Dakota, and in other states, toward the employment of agricultural experts to work in the country in behalf of better farming. They travel from community to

<sup>c</sup> Bulletin of the Agr. Exp. Sta. of Nebraska, Vol. XXIII, Article VII.

community, and advise with and instruct farmers on their own farms relative to better methods of production. This movement may supply enough personal direction so that a large amount of accounting will be rendered unnecessary.

## II. FARM MARKETING

It has been amply shown that the farmer may increase his productiveness in the field, and that it would be beneficial to him if he should keep a record of his business in its details. The regulation of conditions in society at large, on which his prosperity greatly depends, now requires our attention.

The farmer might approach Nature in a passive attitude, fatalistically accepting what she gives up, never seeking to coerce her into yielding more. He may also regard his relation to the business organisation of the world in much the same manner. In fact the agriculturists have taken this attitude too extensively. They have seemed to think they could, by no possibility, influence the regulation of the conditions which set their prices and profits, and have permitted themselves to be victims of whatever chicanery and extortion unscrupulous and selfish commercialism has practised. We shall first seek to discover some of the difficulties the farmer meets when he undertakes to market his produce advantageously.

**Complexity of Conditions.**—"If the farmer has to sow and reap wheat, rear and fatten oxen and sheep, and attend to all the minor branches of his trade that are recommended in the text-books as sources of profit, he must have a corresponding number of articles to sell. He has this additional difficulty, that he has to sell them by different methods and to different people. He has to know not only at what price such articles as he has to offer are selling at any given market, but he has to know whether it will pay him to sell them at that price. He has to exercise his judgment as to whether prices are likely to rise or fall, and to use his ingenuity in finding

out whether by going further afield he can get a better offer, and whether the cost of taking his produce to that market will not extinguish the advantages he might hope to gain. Then it is to be remembered that he is dealing with men who confine themselves to one branch of his industry; for the butcher does not buy wheat, or the miller beef, and consequently he is dealing with men who may be expected to know the details of the trade better than he does. Add to these that he is face to face with a fierce foreign competition, and the sum of his difficulties as a trader will be found to equal, if not surpass, the sum of his difficulties as a producer.”<sup>7</sup>

Besides these difficulties of marketing his produce advantageously, the farmer is subject to other conditions external to him and over which singlehanded he has little control. These consist in the transportation systems which control the rates on produce and consumption goods, and the exchange system consisting of a great mass of middlemen. Neither of these is the peculiar problem confronting farmers as a class, but in some respects he seems more victimised by the middlemen system than some other producers.

Transportation is in nature a monopoly where a shipping point possesses but one line. It is, in fact, a monopoly in many cases where a shipping point is pierced by two or more lines. In such instances an understanding exists between the transportation agencies, and identical rates are maintained by them. The shipper is liable to be the victim of extortionate practices, and the farmer pays double, on his produce and on the goods he buys. Without organisation he has little chance of redress. Only by organisation can he succeed in obtaining more equitable conditions. The various state railway commissions have been able to assist the shippers to a limited extent. The United States Interstate Commission is a much more effective assistant, especially if agri-

<sup>7</sup> Arthur A. L. Rogers, “Business Side of Agriculture,” pp. 10-11. Methuen & Co., London, 1904.

culturists arm themselves with sufficient political power to make their influence felt in the direction of the appointment of its members.

Besides the evils of the transportation system are those of the middleman system. This is even more pernicious than the former. It is of recent origin in its complicated form. In a simpler condition of things direct exchange of produce for consumptive goods took place. To-day we have various sets of middlemen. One set is known as distributing agents in the field. These agents act for associations of either buyers or sellers in such great distributing centres as Kansas City and St. Louis, and have large directive powers over shipments. Should there be a congestion of a certain form of produce at a given place they may direct goods destined for that place to another point in which a scarcity exists.

Another set are the regular commission merchants who receive goods to sell on a commission, and who also, in some instances, may divert goods from one point to another. Then there are the jobbers, of whom we commonly think as wholesalers, whose business it is to receive goods from importers or from manufacturers and to sell them to retail merchants. At the bottom of the middleman pyramid exists the retail merchant, from whom the great mass of persons, including the farmer, purchase their supplies.

The causes of the establishment of these various kinds of middlemen consist in the larger markets which have come by reason of the new system of transportation and communication. Barter has been supplanted, localism in exchange is of small moment, and in order that goods may reach distant points where they are consumed specialised agents are needed.

One of the results affecting the farmer, by reason of this system, is the loss of association on market days which he previously enjoyed with other farmers and buyers. This is especially true where the middleman buys directly from the farm. Another is the loss which arises through masterful



competition between middleman firms and which the consumer sustains in the price he pays for his goods. This arises by duplication of costly establishments, the payment of duplicate forces of employés who are idle most of the week because trade congests on certain days, costly advertising, duplicate field salesmen, duplicate delivery systems, and so forth. Fewer establishments could do the business which is carried on in the average village and city at a great saving.

Still another evil, which is now becoming portentous, is the combination to control prices which the various grades of middlemen practice. In the higher grades it tends to become oppressively monopolistic. The combination may exist only as the "gentlemen's agreement," or as the "neighbourly kindness" of the steel businesses. It is sufficiently effective in either case. In retail business there are state and city associations of the various lines of middlemen.

In some respects the latter form of combination is the worst of all. It is scattered, general, made up of a considerable portion of the population, and is somewhat intangible and dangerous for purposes of legislative and legal reform. As it succeeds in raising prices to successively higher levels each merchant can live off of a smaller volume of business. In turn more merchants creep into the business to carry on the same volume of business which was done by fewer concerns previously. The farmers and other consumers carry the increased burden.

The Department of Agriculture investigated marketing conditions in 1910 to discover how much the farmer gets of the retail price. This investigation covered 78 cities and included milk and butter. The report says "that the milk consumers of 78 cities paid for milk an increase of 100.8 per cent. above the price received by dairymen; in other words the farmer's price was fully doubled. The lowest increase among the geographic divisions was 75.5 per cent. in the South Atlantic States and the highest was 111.9 per cent. in

the Western states.”<sup>8</sup> Consumers pay about 15 per cent. more than the factory price for butter.

Facts are cited from the report of the Industrial Commission relative to many articles. Although they were obtained about ten years ago it is thought that the situation has not materially changed in that interval. Some very large percentages of increase were found—“135.3 per cent. for cabbage bought in the head; 100 per cent. for melons bought by the pound, for buttermilk sold by the quart, and for oranges sold by the crate; 260 per cent. for onions bought by the peck; 400.4 per cent. for oranges bought by the dozen; 111.1 per cent. for strawberries bought by the quart; and 200 per cent. for watermelons sold singly.” Many articles sold to consumers at from 75 to 100 per cent. above the farmer’s price.

The middleman does not absorb all in excess of the farmer’s selling price. Transportation secures its charges. “The freight charge for milk received in New York is about 18 per cent. of the producer’s price and in Chicago about 14.7 per cent. . . . The percentages of farm price for which freight charges stand in the United States may be estimated at approximately 0.9 of 1 per cent. of the factory price for butter; 1.2 per cent. of the farm price for clover seed; 1.6 per cent. for cotton; 1.3 per cent. for eggs; 13.6 per cent. for apples; 4.8 per cent. for beans; 14.8 per cent. for potatoes; and 5 per cent. for sweet potatoes. The rates for oats, rye, barley, and wheat are nearly the same, ranging from 6 per cent. for oats to 7.3 per cent. for barley and rye. The rate for corn is 9.2 per cent. and the average for all grain is 7.7 per cent. For hay the percentage is 15.8 per cent.; for cattle and hogs, 2.5 per cent.; for live poultry, 4.5 per cent.; and for wool, 0.6 of 1 per cent.”<sup>9</sup>

Professor Carver, in his volume on rural economics, gives the following facts relative to the distribution of the ultimate

<sup>8</sup> “Year Book,” U. S. Dept. Agr., 1910, p. 24.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 25.

cost of certain articles among the various agents in their production. Only a few articles are selected to illustrate the point. (Table 14.)

TABLE XIV

## DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Product	Price to producer	Price to consumer	Difference	What wholesaler gets	What retailer gets	Place sold
Apples, Jonathan..	\$1.66	\$3.60	\$1.94	\$0.12	\$1.10	Boston
Bacon, home cured.	.08	.19½	.11½	.048	.03½	"
Beef, per 100 lbs, steer .....	4.25	6.475	3.79	2.85	0.4885	"
Butter .....	.25	.36	.11		.072	"
Eggs .....	.12	.25	.13		.0685	"
Milk .....	.02¾	.08	.05¼	contractor .02¾	peddler .02	"
California oranges..	1.612	3.50	1.888		.05	"
Potatoes .....	.50	.90	.40		.17	"
Rice .....	.40	4.16⅔	3.76⅔	1.00	2.00	"
Dressed turkey....	.25	.38	.13	big dealer .015	.08	"

## III. BENEFITS OF ORGANISATION

A different line of action has sometimes been proposed as an alternative to organisation on the part of farmers. They are asked to become self-sufficient. The farmer is to attain this by becoming the consumer of his own products. He thus rids himself of dependency on corporations.

This is rather an absurd proposal. It would not relieve the farmer of buying his groceries, drygoods, machinery, and other supplies which corporations control, unless, at the same time, he resorted to the extreme measure of becoming manufacturer of these various commodities as they exist in their present form. Otherwise he would have to return to the

stage of household manufacture, and to a state of living which would be so primitive that few modern men and women would be willing to adopt it.

**Value of Coöperation.**—The farmer's panacea undoubtedly lies in the direction of organisation, in a coöperative effort of some form, rather than in a resort to an extreme individualism. If the farmer were not certain on this point he has lessons both in the industrial and commercial world, as well as in that of agriculture at home and abroad. In the case of industry, commerce, and transportation, independent competitive dealers and corporations existed during a considerable era. Rivalry and competition between them were lively and even destructive at times. Loss and demoralisation frequently occurred.

Out of this internecine strife there gradually emerged understanding and coöperation among rival dealers and corporations. Combination took the place of independent competition. Larger profits came instead of destructive losses. Peace and stability have been accompanying effects.

Between small organisations of agricultural producers is also seen the destructive and demoralising effects of competition. For instance, in the Michigan grape-producing region exist several local associations of grape growers for marketing their produce. They operate on an approximate coöperative basis. But the local associations compete with each other in dealing with commission houses for the disposal of their fruit. This tends to lower the price of their grapes, to induce jobbers to stimulate the inter-associational rivalry, and weakens the organisations, which are otherwise quite effective.

The local associations have seen their weakness. Local pride and jealousy have prevented their amalgamation into a larger coöperative undertaking. Recently, however, meetings have been held and steps taken to effect such an object. The conditions are promising for a more comprehensive organisation among the grape growers of Michigan.

**Requirements of Organisation.**—Theoretically, the nature of the organisation the farmers should establish is in question. Should it be modelled on industrial combinations or strike out on original lines? It is true that rural regions cannot expect to move as fast as urban communities in adopting inventions and utilities for business and comfort. They may not be able to adopt in the exact form the things they do take over for use. In their combinations for business purposes they may have to work over and modify organisations to make them meet their purposes.

The principles which lie at the foundation of industrial organisations are applicable to those of agriculture. One of these is the practice of economy in the internal arrangement and processes which arise out of competitive conditions. The elimination of waste and duplication and the circulation of intelligence which makes this possible are means to realise the principle. A second principle is seen in the strengthening of the trade against outside interests. Thus middlemen combine against producers of their stock to lower the cost of goods, and against consumers of the articles they sell to raise prices, leaving the trade a larger profit. A third principle may be observed in the attempt of the trade to control party and governmental activities in the direction of benefiting its own interests. Some of the larger corporations have influenced legislators in the selection of senators in Congress; caucuses and conventions who nominated the legislators who should prove approachable; the appointment of judges who should decide their cases in court; departmental appointments and administration in the government at Washington; and Congress of the United States in its legislative activities.

There is a further requirement which is imposed on agricultural organisations, if the farmers would become independent economically as a class. This is the one which arises out of the food demands of the world made by the populations of the great cities. To meet the necessities of this situation

food must be transported rapidly, for the oranges of California, for example, are mostly consumed over 2,500 miles outside the state. It must be sent regularly for the demand is constant. It must be of such uniform quality that a sample will represent the supply at large. Individual farmers are not fitted to meet these demands. Local organisations are not competent. Only wider combinations, such as are seen among the orange-growers of California and the Pacific Coast, would be able to fulfil the conditions.

**Denmark as an Object Lesson.**— Object lessons sufficient exist to indicate the sort of combination agriculturists require. The growth of the coöperative movement during the last few decades among the farmers of the world, covering not only the marketing of their products, but undertaking the even more difficult task of selling supplies of all sorts to themselves, furnishes significant examples.

Abroad, Denmark affords the most striking illustration of the benefits of coöperative undertakings among rural populations. It may be said that agricultural Denmark has been redeemed by the movement. All its chief products are handled by coöperative associations, such as dairy products, eggs, and bacon. Relative to bacon, the federated slaughtering associations are so strong that they established a competitor in London to meet the competition of a bacon trust and eventually destroyed the latter.

The importance of the factor of coöperation is well brought out in the report of the Scottish agricultural commission in 1904. They observe: "It may be said that the dominant feature of Danish agriculture is the thoroughness of its organisation. From the local associations supplying the farmer with his requirements and purchasing the produce of the land, to the great trading corporation having their headquarters in Copenhagen, a network of coöperative societies, all federated together, covers the whole agricultural work. As the middleman is largely dispensed with, and most of the local buying

and selling is done practically for ready money, a great deal of additional profit is secured to the producer which in other countries is lost. By the separation of the commercial from the productive side of agriculture a most useful division of labour is secured. The trading is carried out wholesale by especially skilled men who are fully occupied, so that the individual farmer is free to devote his whole time and energy to getting as much as possible from the land."

The movement has enlightened the farmer as to what education should be. Farming there is fast becoming a science, and to equip the youth for their occupation the schools have been made responsive to the needs of farm communities. This breeds general intelligence and a comprehension of the principles of science. It has also enlightened the farmer as to what are his rights and privileges as a class among other classes.

In order to secure justice the farmer has entered the political arena. Having the majority of voters he has filled the popular house of the national legislature with members representative of his interests. They have proceeded to create land laws which are gradually breaking up the large feudal estates and making it possible for the poor man to obtain small holdings. Administrative officers in the ministry or cabinet are also of agrarian extraction. The prosperity of Denmark under the effects of the coöperative movement is beyond anything it has ever seen before. Marketing its products and buying goods for its members at most advantageous terms, it has accomplished for the mass of the population what, in America, the great corporations have accomplished for the few.

In America the coöperative movement is rapidly extending among the farmers and is bringing undoubted advantages to them. One of the most notable is the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, which handles from 60 to 70 per cent. of the citrous fruit grown in the state and does a business ranging

from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 a year. It has over 100 packing houses, 13 district and 96 local exchanges, and about 6,000 members.

Farmers' Grain Dealers Associations are becoming important economic agencies. These associations have done much to elevate the price of grain. They own multitudes of local elevators and are moving toward securing terminal elevators. They also desire uniform Federal inspection of grain. The local associations have become large distributors of staple commodities in their communities. There is a marked tendency in the movement to become more coöperative in the technical sense, demanding stricter fealty of members and giving them advantages not possessed by outside patrons.

This tendency to become more strictly coöperative is in line with the advice of Sir Horace Plunkett. He says the emphasis in farmers' organisations must be laid on equitable distribution of profits, risks, and control, and this admonition comes out of his twenty years of experience in organising agricultural societies in Ireland.

Facts relative to the constitution and character of agricultural organisations in the United States will be given in a later chapter. The reader is referred to that portion of the volume for fuller particulars.

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## CHAPTER IX

### THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

#### I. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Some writers regard improvement of communication and transportation as the most important step in rural social betterment. In their estimation the breaking up of isolation is the most serious task and the improvement and extension of these agencies will accomplish this. Others see another side. They believe the perfecting of these agencies will bring the city nearer to the country, increase its drawing power over rural populations, and so injure the country. But as we shall discover the advantages outweigh the evils and make the improvement of rural communication and transportation positively desirable.

**Significance for Civilisation.**—The general influence of good highways on community life is seen in the case of the Roman Empire. In modern times before the advent of the railway it was regarded as impossible to maintain a government in America stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Should the Pacific Coast region undertake to secede the great distance from the seat of government would effectually prevent coercion. And being so remote it would most likely have little communion with the rest of the nation, and would build up its own customs and interests, which would inevitably lead to dismemberment.

But could America have constructed permanent roadways across the continent the case would have been different. For the Roman Government controlled a wider and more diverse

area for centuries, marched its armies, sent its dispatches by carriers at the speed of over a hundred miles a day, and carried on commerce with its parts and with other nations. Only by means of its roads, some of which may be seen in a good state of preservation to-day, was this larger community life possible. And the establishment of that larger control was immensely important for laying the ideal and principles of government, securing tranquillity for peaceful pursuits, and extending civilisation to inferior peoples.

This larger aspect of the case is not entirely lost to-day in spite of the advent of railways, telegraph, and telephone. There will always exist large districts remote from railways and trolleys, particularly in declivitous regions. These will depend on highways for transportation and mail. Moreover, the project of building a great boulevard across the continent, which is under discussion, and that of establishing a Meridian Road from Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico, which is now being carried out, indicate that the advent of motor cars has renewed the pleasures of highway travel. The existence of good roads will extend the larger community satisfaction in this and other directions.

**Social Function of Better Communication.**—The advent of the telephone and rural mail delivery into country life has a marked influence on the life of the people. The outside world is brought near. Its news and ideas become a part of the daily life and thoughts of the country. Weather predictions for the safety of crops and for the pleasure and dress of farmers become available. Market reports of grains, fruit, garden produce, and stock may be known each hour of the day. The wonderful pleasure and advantages of the daily paper is open to every one. The feeling of being absolutely separated from the big world and of having no part in its life gives way to a satisfaction of knowing about it and entering into its affairs. Distant friends are brought closer. More frequent correspondence comes as a consequence.

Small parcels of goods are sometimes conveyed to farmers along the rural route. When the parcels post becomes a reality this agency will have an enormous patronage.

As a matter of justice that half of our population which lives in the country has the same right of receiving its daily mail as has the city people. Perhaps it is impracticable at present to give this to people in remote and little settled regions. But the major part of country inhabitants could and should be reached. The cost of the extension is not great. The last figures at hand indicate that it is 92.7 cents per capita. That seems ridiculously low in view of the benefits received. Yet an Illinois community refused to patronise the rural mail service because it was supposed it would increase the taxes, forcing the Government to withdraw it.

Some of the effects of the rural mail service may be noted. First, about 1903, it had increased the amount of mail handled over 40 per cent., the number of letters registered, 57 per cent., the sale of postage stamps, 24 per cent., and the newspaper mail from 50 to 300 per cent., according to the region. The growth of fourth class mail matter has been large. This consists chiefly of small articles purchased by mail from the city stores. In a certain county in Maryland the fourth class matter has increased 90 per cent., which is almost entirely merchandise purchased by the women folk from the shops in Baltimore through the mails. That the city merchants are responding to their opportunities for trade is shown by an increase of 54 per cent. in the circulars and advertising matter delivered by the rural carriers.

Second, another and not unnatural effect of the system is the improvement of highways throughout the country. In locating free delivery routes the conditions of the roads is always an important consideration and many petitions have been denied on the ground that the highways were not fit for travel during the muddy months of the year. This point is now understood and nearly every petition that goes into the

United States Mail Department at Washington is accompanied by an offer or a pledge on the part of the county commissioners to improve the roads and to put them in fit condition as rapidly as the new system is established.

Third, another benefit is the increased valuation of country property. Frequently an increase in value of \$2 or more per acre is given farms lying along these routes.

The service of the telephone in rural life in promoting social solidarity is noteworthy. Neighbours are brought nearer to each other. Easy communication between the housewives breaks up much of the loneliness and unsatisfied craving for association. Matters of business are attended to easily. Those of neighbourhood importance receive attention which would otherwise be neglected. Social organisation and neighbourhood welfare, where planning and conference is necessary, finds in the telephone its greatest assistant. The following facts show the widespread use of the telephone, table 15.

TABLE XV  
TELEPHONES IN CORN BELT STATES

	1907	1902
Iowa .....	174,155	58,364
Illinois .....	170,343	49,440
Ohio .....	131,164	24,236
Indiana .....	115,086	28,190
Missouri .....	113,528	26,510
Kansas .....	96,455	3,509

"It will be noticed that the number of telephones nearly trebled in most of the states during the five years from 1902 to 1907. In Iowa and Illinois, it is interesting to note that there is an average of nearly one telephone for every farm, there being 190,000 farms in Iowa and 174,000 rural 'phones.'" <sup>1</sup>

**Social Function of Roads.**— 1. Many of the services which the mail system and the telephone perform for the country are

<sup>1</sup> *Rural Manhood*, January, 1911, p. 9.

also in a measure promoted by good roads. Good roads lie at the basis of the social institutions and associational life of the rural district. In a previous connection we saw the advantage and necessity of getting together to promote common interests. For the inhabitants of the land who do not have street railways, pavements, or sidewalks recourse must be had to the highways. Their condition determines the amount of concourse of a neighbourhood. Visiting, exchange of ideas and promotion of neighbourhood plans, interchange of courtesies, extension of fellowship, church and school attendance, the advancement of lodges, institutes, societies of equity and other farm organisations, entertainments, sports, amusements, spelling matches, music classes, women's clubs, young people's clubs, and kindred organisations, are affected by the state of the highways. Should the churches of a region desire to consolidate the plan only becomes feasible if the roads warrant it. People in the outlying districts will not consent to drive far over bad roads.

School consolidation is dependent on the state of the highways. The transportation of pupils over long routes is impossible where their condition is very bad. In five bad-road states the average attendance of pupils enrolled is fifty-nine, and in five good-road states it is seventy-eight out of a hundred. In parts of Ohio and Indiana where school consolidation has taken place, children are carried to school, attendance is increased, their health is promoted, and the evils of isolation are reduced. School consolidation is one of the very greatest agencies of the all around improvement of rural society. This alone creates a mighty demand for good highways.

The advantages of distant cities and villages are brought near to farmers. With the use of automobiles the time required to go a distance is reduced to one-fourth. Quick repairs of machinery are also made possible.

2. The economy which comes from good roads is great.

(1) The cost of hauling is reduced. "The cost of hauling twelve principal crops to shipping points in the United States during the crop year 1905-6 has been estimated by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture as \$72,984,000. This excludes crops hauled to local mills. . . . The farmer's expense of hauling is greatly increased by bad roads. He may be obliged to deliver his product at the local shipping point when prices are low and the roads passable, or wait for a better market and run the risk of having to haul over rough roads with more horses to the wagon and a much lighter load. The expense of hauling under these difficulties may amount to double or even four times the normal cost." <sup>2</sup>

A large amount of perishable merchandise could also be saved if the highways enabled its movement at the appropriate time. There are over \$2,000,000,000 worth of mules and horses in the United States. Double their hauling capacity or increase it by 20 per cent. and an enormous amount of wealth is created. With the use of motor tractors England has cut the cost of hauling farm products to market to four cents per ton-mile. Eighteen years ago the European cost of hauling was eighteen cents. (2) Truck and small-fruit farming are dependent on good roads. (3) Land values rise with road improvement. Professor Latta, of Purdue University, made an investigation that showed an average increase of five dollars an acre in territory where roads have been improved. United States Government investigations indicate "that the average percentage of improved roads in all states where the land is worth less than \$20 per acre is 1.9 per cent., whereas in the states showing an acreage value of more than \$20 improved roads constitute an average of 9 per cent. of the total mileage." <sup>3</sup>

(4) Wear and tear on horses, harness, and wagons would be reduced and entail a large saving. (5) Uniform traffic

<sup>2</sup> "Roads and Road Building," Office of Public Roads, U. S. Dept. of Agr., p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

for the railroads instead of congestion at times and unused rolling stock at others would produce a saving for them. Now the falling off of traffic at country stations is as high as fifty per cent. when roads are bad.

## II. THE IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS

Several things are necessary in order to secure good highways. The education of farmers to the need and methods of improvement, the adoption of a better method of administration, and investigation and training in best ways of construction are necessary items.

**An Educated Public.**—Securing a public opinion which will move individuals and communities to take appropriate action is an educational process which, like other reform processes, takes much time to accomplish. This process of enlightenment has been under way for some time, but as yet only a small part of the nation is affected. Farmers' institutes, in which talks and discussions relative to roads take place, and whose object lessons and demonstrations as to methods of road-building occur, are effective agencies.

Commercial clubs of cities are agitating and discussing good roads. The motive seems to be twofold. Good roads about a city extend the commercial territory as far as they prevail. Automobile owners who are members of commercial clubs desire the improvement of highways so they may have longer and better motoring courses. Sometimes a scientific element enters. In a certain club a university professor of engineering is chairman of the roads committee and gives illustrated talks on highway betterment. The club has undertaken to drag a certain stretch of road near the city as an object lesson in road building.

Agricultural colleges give instruction in road construction, and their students, especially the short-term students, returning to the farms become exponents of the idea. The United States Department of Agriculture conducts investigations and



experiments in road-building and the use of the best materials adapted to different communities. Its experts build model roads at local expense but under Government expert direction as object lessons in a given region. During 1910, 55 such object lessons were conducted, "each constituting a miniature school of road-building, comprising 10 distinct types of construction." By an annual inspection of roads the Office of Public Roads has learned that during 1910, 22 short sections of model roads "had directly resulted in the building of 730 miles of additional roads according to the same method, and had brought about an expenditure, through bond issues, of \$1,500,000."<sup>4</sup>

The Public Roads Office has broadened its educational programme. The men who direct the investigative work and construction and maintenance of object-lesson roads chiefly carry it on in the way of lectures, addresses, and papers. In 1910 they gave 523 lectures and addresses, as compared with 185 the previous year. The Office instructs young engineers in road building and these are called into positions as road engineers. The Secretary's report says, "a capable, progressive engineer constitutes an infinitely greater force in the movement" than object-lesson roads, because he goes on year after year in the work of road improvement.

Good-roads associations are at work in various parts of the country. Usually they work individually and at cross purposes. Coöperation is needed. California shows what united effort will accomplish. The legislature recently authorised a bond issue of \$18,000,000 to improve the highways of the state. Two main highways to run the entire length of the state are to be built. Several counties have entered the movement. The people of Los Angeles have issued \$3,500,000 bonds to pay for the construction of a complete system of macadamised road radiating in every direction from that city, and for a wide boulevard running direct from the

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1910, pp. 153-4.

city to the harbour at San Pedro. Santa Barbara County has raised \$125,000 and is building roads with a heavy rock base and a surface of crushed granite mixed with oil. The good-roads movement is active all over the West, particularly in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

The Government and the big corporations of the country have coöperated to form the American Association for Highway Improvement. Government officials and heads of railway systems constitute the officers. A board of directors composed of eminent men from various walks of life is behind the Association. Their motive is commercial and philanthropic. They believe it will save the country \$800,000,000 yearly, steady the food market, and break the social isolation of the rural districts.

**Modes of Road Construction.**—A brief account of the modes of road construction will prove suggestive. The Government, in its directive work, seeks to find the most available material which is the most economical for the different regions of the nation. In the South, for instance, large areas of clay regions exist. These clays are sticky and plastic. Unimproved roads become impassable. Sand nor stone abound for improvement. Fortunately, forests do abound. It is found that these clays may be burned so as to destroy their plastic properties and to harden into brick-like lumps capable of sustaining traffic. Data kept on 300 feet of this road construction shows an expense of \$83.95. A mile at this rate would cost only \$1,478.40 and would have the advantage of being permanent. In other portions of the South a sand-clay construction is used. Its cost ranges from \$200 to \$1,200 per mile, being mostly from \$300 to \$800. It is permanent in quality, subject to easy repair, and enables six bales of cotton being hauled, whereas previously a bale would be a load.

In some states gravel and stone are abundant. In such cases very durable roads may be secured at a cost, which a

few years under our present costly system of local supervision and patchwork plan, would cover. The permanence of such roads should recommend them. The primary cost would be almost the only one. Shell roads are constructed in some portions of the East and South where oyster shells may be secured cheaply. They are less durable than broken stone or gravel and demand more constant attention.

Many of the roads of the central and western states are being kept in a serviceable state by means of the split log drag. This is a very simple and inexpensive device which was invented by Mr. D. W. King of Iowa. There are about 2,000,000 miles of earth roads in the whole country which may be kept in repair economically by its use. A primary grading is necessary. Then an occasional use of the drag, easily drawn by two horses, especially a day or two following rains, is all that is required.

Not only the western but the eastern states, and even European countries are employing this device. A road official north of Boston, Massachusetts, reports an annual saving of 83 per cent. by its use. It is found to work well not only on earth roads but on factory city streets composed of a slag consisting of clinkers, lime, and steel; and even on the "black-waxy," or "buckshot," roadways which are the terror of the South. Such a road near Helena, Arkansas, impassable in open winters for forty years, responded to its use, so that even in an unusually wet winter, four mules were able to draw ten bales of cotton over it.

**Requisite Administration.**—Road administration lies at the foundation of road improvement. The present system of leaving the construction of roads to small communities is logically a very poor one. The delivery of United States mail might as well be left to every little school district and township in the United States in expectation of an efficient mail service. Because a mile of road lies within a road district is no reason for supposing that the whole interest in

having a mile of good road at that point is located within the confines of that district. Perhaps the people most interested in having a good road at that point live outside the district. If a farmer lives six miles from town where he has to sell his grain he is interested in having a good hard road-bed all the way. But if the building of that road is left to several different districts along the way he may be forever condemned to a state of bad roads. The matter ought to be vested in a larger community than the road district or the township. It is a matter for state or national enterprise, by means of which roads will be systematised, and will be erected and established as systematically as are our mail routes for city and country.

The report of the good roads commission appointed by the state legislature of Illinois says, relative to the waste and graft of the present township road commissioner system:

"We find enough taxes are levied in Illinois annually, if expended in an economical, uniform, and systematic manner under the supervision of a practical head, to construct a system of highways, intra-township, intra-county, and intra-state, that would be a monument to the progressive character of the people of the state and add materially to the prosperity of every community." Much petty grafting was discovered.

"There should be legislation taking the sole power of laying out roads or repairing or building the same from the township or road district commissioners, that should require these commissioners to file an itemised report of their financial transactions with some responsible central head that would require a plat of all roads to be filed of record and a report of the character of material and manner of construction and their condition at least once a year.

"There should be a superintendent of roads in each county whose duty it should be to oversee and supervise the laying out and construction and repairing of all roads in his county with the end in view that these roads should become intra-township and intra-county lines, thereby connecting up the

main points and in time creating a network of good roads throughout the state."

A Government report makes the following recommendations for administration betterment. "A good system would be to have a highway engineer competent to pass upon any question affecting the construction or maintenance of roads placed in charge of the road work of the county. He should report directly to the county court. This engineer should be responsible for road construction; for the repair and maintenance of roads; should prepare contracts and specifications; repair and maintain bridges; have charge of all road machinery and purchase all material, and should account regularly to the county court for all money expended under his direction. If one county could not afford to employ an engineer, two or three counties might share the expense and the benefits. Under the engineer's immediate jurisdiction should be placed a certain number of skilled road supervisors or road overseers, each having a given territory for which he is responsible. In his territory the overseer should have direct supervision over every road gang, and each gang should be in charge of a foreman. Under this system of organisation there would be no waste of public revenues in ill-conducted efforts at road-building, for every item of work performed would be a part of a general system devised in the office of the highway engineer and approved by the county court.

"In some cases it might be found better to centralise the road work and authority of the state under direction of a state engineer, with his corps of assistant engineers acting in lieu of the county engineers described in the last paragraph. This state system would probably have the advantage of less aggregate outlay for engineers and provide a more methodical system of county roads; but on the other hand, there would be lacking an intimate knowledge of local needs and conditions which would be possessed by the county engineer. The

state system would also weaken in a measure local authority over roads." <sup>5</sup>

Just what system will prevail will be a matter of experience. Road administration is in a transitional and formative state and it is of the utmost importance that it be directed along right lines. It is clear, however, that a larger administrative unit and control is demanded.

<sup>5</sup> "Roads and Road Building," Bulletin, Office of Public Roads, U. S. Dept. of Agr., p. 11.

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## CHAPTER X

### SOCIAL ASPECTS OF LAND AND LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES

Certain phases of land and labour in the United States are of special social significance. The amount of arable land to be developed, the amount of farming land unimproved, the tendency in the size of farms, the tenure of land, the supply, wages, and social conditions of farm labour are some of the more fundamental items. These affect the welfare of individuals living in the country and that of the nation as a whole. The nation's population is ultimately determined by the amount of its arable land.

#### I. AVAILABLE AND UNIMPROVED AREA

Relative to the amount of total available arable land in the United States and the amount which is unimproved but is in the shape of farms the following facts are presented.

**Amount of Available Arable Land.**— This has been a great factor in the development of the United States, offering an optimistic outlook for every ambitious young man who desired to farm, and affecting the wages alike of industrial and agricultural labour. July 1, 1908, there were 226,690,938 acres of surveyed and 528,204,358 acres of unsurveyed public lands vacant and subject to entry and settlement, a total of 754,895,296 acres.

An inspection of tables of unappropriated lands show that almost one-half of this domain lies in Alaska where it is not likely to be developed soon. Besides this the semi-arid states of Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming,

and Colorado absorb from three-fifths to three-fourths of the remainder.<sup>1</sup> Irrigation will make much of this vast area usable for agricultural purposes. Through the work of the United States Reclamation Service a considerable proportion of the western desert area, extending from Arizona and lower California northward into the State of Washington, has been transformed, and the lands, formerly worthless as a national asset, now yield crops worth each year \$250,000,000. Thirteen million acres in these deserts have been planted to grains, fruits, and other crops. Thirty million acres of land, enough to provide homes for 2,000,000 families, are yet to be irrigated in the West.

Recent government statistics indicate that a conservative statement of the amount which may be reclaimed for profitable farming by the drainage of swamp lands is 79,000,000 acres. An analysis of representative samples of swamp land soils made last year (1911) at the University of Ohio, resulted in the report that such soil could support 1,000 yields of corn at fifty bushels to the acre without any material soil exhaustion resulting.

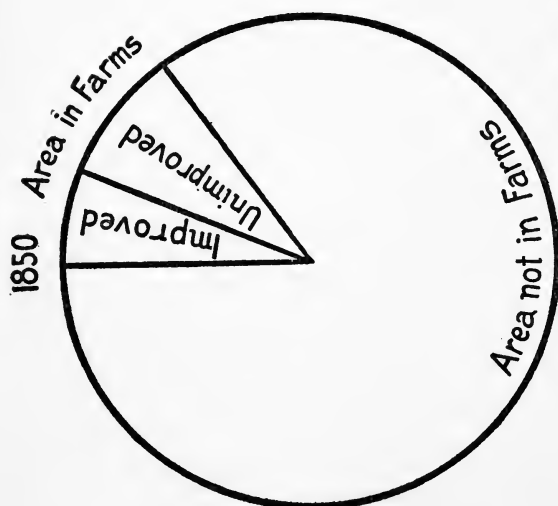
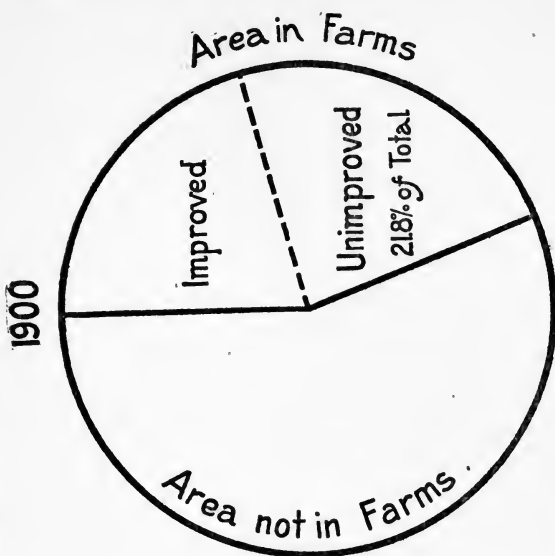
In addition to what irrigation and drainage may bring into cultivation better methods of farming under dry conditions will recover another large area. What is known as "dry farming" succeeds in producing crops in the semi-arid regions in all seasons save those of absolute drought.

**Unimproved Farm Area.**—Besides the foregoing area there is a large acreage in farms which is tabulated as unimproved. In 1900, exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii, there were 5,737,372 farms in the United States with an average acreage of 146.2. These farms comprised 838,591,774 acres, of which 414,498,487 acres, or 49.4 per cent. were improved, and the remainder, or 50.6 per cent. were unimproved. The percentages in 1850 were 38.5 improved and 61.5 per cent. unimproved.

<sup>1</sup> "Public Document, No. 5452," p. 110.



## USED AND UNUSED LAND IN THE UNITED STATES



(Statistical Atlas, 1900, plate No. 127)

The accompanying diagram indicates the changes which have been made in the relative amounts of the improved and unimproved land in farms, and of the area not in farms during the half century ending with 1900.

#### LAND AREAS IN U. S.—1850 AND 1900

An inspection of the statistics of improved and unimproved farm acreage by states and territories shows that the condition of improvement is general, though some states rate lower than others. Thus Massachusetts showed 63.4 per cent. of improved acreage in 1880 to 41.1 in 1900; Alabama, 33.8 to 41.8; Georgia, 31.5 to 40.2; Kansas, 50.1 to 60.1; Illinois, 82.5 to 84.5; New York, 74.5 to 68.9; Nevada, 64.9 to 22.3. In the eastern states the decrease is due to abandonment of farming, while in the western it is owing to increasing settlement. It is apparent from these facts that a usable public domain of great expanse exists and that the farms now owned are developed or used to only about half of their acreage. If the total arable area were settled and put into use and the unimproved farm acreage were improved the United States could treble or quadruple its population as conditions exist. If intensive farming were employed it could probably do so again. There is abundance of room and support for a multiplication of our agricultural population.

An estimate of the amount of population the United States might support based on the water supply has been made. The arable land of the nation is classed as semi-arid, sub-humid, and humid. The water supply of the United States is estimated in terms of acre feet, an acre foot being 1 foot of water per acre; and 5 acre feet being regarded as sufficient for one person annually. On this basis, if the entire supply of water were used, we might expect a population of 348,000,000 in the year 2000; 575,000,000 in 2100; and 1,017,000,000 in 2200. Of the population at the latter date the Western States would have 200,000,000; the Median

States, 200,000,000; and the Eastward, or humid states would possess 600,000,000.<sup>2</sup>

## II. TENDENCY IN SIZE OF FARMS

**Facts Expressing Tendency.**—Statistics of the number and acreage of farms at each decennial census from 1850 to 1900 show that there was a decrease in the size of farms from 202.6 acres in 1850 to 133.7 acres in 1880. Since then there has been a reverse tendency, the average acreage per farm being 146.2 in 1900. In this year there were 5,737,372 such average farms. The decrease in size of farms between 1880 and 1900 occurred almost exclusively in states outside of the Western Division. Massachusetts was the only New England state, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were the other two North Atlantic states to show a decrease. The South Atlantic states were Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina. The North Central were Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri. The South Central were Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The one state in the Western Division was California.

The southern states showed the most decided decreases in the decade ending in 1900. Alabama's average fell from 138.8 to 92.7; Arkansas', 127.7 to 93.1; Florida's, 140.7 to 106.9; Kentucky's, 129.1 to 93.7; Louisiana's, 171.3 to 95.4; Mississippi's, 155.8 to 82.6; North Carolina's, 141.9 to 101.3; South Carolina's, 143.4 to 90.0; Tennessee's, 124.8 to 90.6; Virginia's, 167.4 to 118.6; West Virginia's, 162.6 to 114.7. Otherwise the decrease was slight.

The very heavy increases in the average acreage among states were: Arizona, 176.8 to 333.2; Colorado, 258.6 to 383.6; Kansas, 154.6 to 240.7; Montana, 267.1 to 885.9; Nebraska, 156.9 to 246.1; Nevada, 378.1 to 1174.7; New Mexico, 124.9 to 416.8; North Dakota (in 1890), 277.4 to

<sup>2</sup> "How One Billion of Us Can be Fed." W. J. McGee, *World's Work*, February, 1912, p. 443.

342.9; Oklahoma, 182.0 to 251.5; South Dakota (in 1890), 277.2 to 362.4; Texas, 208.4 to 357.2; Utah, 69.4 to 212.4; Wyoming, 273.3 to 1333.0. Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington made decided gains.<sup>3</sup>

The radical tendencies in either direction are due to local or regional conditions. The decrease of the farm acreage of the southern states arises from the continued process of breaking up large plantations, formerly operated on the basis of slavery, into smaller proprietary or tenant tracts. The increase of the western region comes largely from the creation of large stock ranches; but in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Kansas, and Nebraska it is also partly due to the establishment of large grain farms. The stock ranches are breaking up and the western increase from that direction is probably temporary. Consolidation of farms which has occurred in Iowa is likely to continue so long as new lands may be purchased cheaply. The very large grain ranches of the Dakotas show signs of disintegration.

TABLE XVI<sup>4</sup>

NUMBER OF FARMS OF SPECIFIED ACREAGE, 1880-1900

Year	Under 3 Acres	3 and Under 10	10 and Under 20	20 and Under 50	50 and Under 100	100 and Under 500	500 and Under 1000	1000 acres and over
1900 ...	41,385	225,844	406,641	1,257,496	1,366,038	2,290,282	102,526	47,160
1890 ...	.....	.....	265,550	902,777	1,121,485	2,008,694	84,395	31,546
1880 ...	4,352	134,889	254,749	781,574	1,032,810	1,695,983	75,972	23,578
Year	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1900 ...	0.7	4.0	7.1	21.9	23.8	39.9	1.8	0.8
1890 ...	...	...	5.8	19.8	24.6	44.0	1.8	0.7
1880 ...	0.1	3.4	6.3	19.5	25.3	42.3	1.9	0.7

<sup>3</sup> Table No. LX, U. S. Statistical Abstract, 1908.<sup>4</sup> Table 102, Abstract 12th Census.

The table on page 127 presents the facts relative to the number of farms of specific sizes in the United States from 1880 to 1900.

**Capitalistic Ownership.**—Probably the only considerable menace to small ownership lies in the direction of capitalistic investments in large tracts of land which have been made mostly in the West, Southwest, and Southeast. Some very large holdings exist. Fragmentary statements of the approximate character are given for what they are worth. It is said that Henry Miller of California owns 4,500,000 acres; E. J. Marshall of Los Angeles owns 4,000,000 acres in the Southwest; Mrs. King, 1,000,000 acres in Texas; Hetty Green, over 1,000,000 acres; 100 men own 17,000,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley; 40 foreigners — mostly English and German — own 22,910,740 acres; Frederick Weyerhauser controls 30,000,000 acres. Some of these possessions are larger than some of the states. The Weyerhauser control embraces an area equal to that of one-half of New England or that of South Carolina. Or the property of Mr. Miller is about the size of West Virginia. It is probable that, should all the large holdings, which are actually owned by single individuals, get reported correctly, they would increase the average size of farms in the United States. According to the table on size of farms, only eight-tenths of one per cent. of the farms embraced 1,000 acres or more. Forest land and mineral claims are probably not included under the heading of farms.

The importance of land ownership and size of farms is seen in conditions in England and Spain, where extensive estates are withheld from useful production to the great injury of the people; in the recent action of English landlords who transformed into game premises large areas of land in agricultural use; in the comparison of the condition of the average agricultural labourer in England and in France, the former being a mere wage worker with no secure home or

footing, the latter, with his little family group being owner of the land he farms.

### III. TENANT FARMING

**Farm Operation.**— That there is a tendency somewhat pronounced toward the operation of farms by tenants rather than by the owners is evident by an inspection of Table XVII.

TABLE XVII <sup>5</sup>

#### LAND TENURE IN THE UNITED STATES BY DIVISIONS

Division	Per cent. of Farms Operated by					
	Owners		Cash Tenants		Share Tenants	
	1900	1880	1900	1880	1900	1880
Continental United States..	64.7	74.5	13.1	8.0	22.2	17.5
North Atlantic Division....	79.2	84.0	9.8	7.0	11.0	9.0
South Atlantic Division....	55.8	63.9	17.9	11.6	26.3	24.5
North Central Division.....	72.1	79.5	9.5	5.2	18.4	15.3
South Central Division.....	51.4	63.8	17.3	11.8	31.1	24.4
Western Division .....	83.4	86.0	7.7	5.5	8.9	8.5

The owners ceased operation to the extent of almost 10 per cent., in the twenty years between 1880 and 1900, and tenantry was substituted. These results appear to ensue chiefly from three causes. First, the investment in farm lands by city residents — generally in proximity to their municipality, and second, from the retirement of well-to-do farmers into the neighbouring city or village. Third, a larger period is required to save money with which to buy a farm than was previously the case. As a consequence, each successive generation of farmers must remain longer in the tenant class. The next table shows this (Table XVIII).

From generation to generation a smaller percentage are able to make the transition to farm ownership. "Of the occupiers of farm homes who were less than 25 years of age, a smaller percentage were owners in 1900 than in 1890. This is true for every age period given in the table except

<sup>5</sup> Abstract of 12th Census, Table 149.

TABLE XVIII

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS OWNING AND HIRING FARM HOMES

Age	1890		1900	
	Owned	Hired	Owned	Hired
Under 25 years.....	32.6	67.4	27.7	72.2
25 to 34 years.....	49.8	50.2	45.3	54.7
35 to 44 years.....	64.0	36.0	64.4	35.6
45 to 54 years.....	72.3	27.7	70.7	29.3
55 years and over.....	82.2	17.8	81.4	18.6

one — the reverse being true for the period from 35 to 44. This suggests that the decline in landownership is due to the inability, or disinclination, of the succeeding generation to acquire land ownership so generally as their predecessors." The various forces and conditions governing the attainment of land and also those which retard investments in land are at the base of the decline.<sup>6</sup>

The tendencies in the United States are not decisively toward extended consolidation and enlarged holdings. In the regions where the enlargement is most noteworthy as has been seen, it is apparently due to the operation of causes other than the advantage in production which arises from large holdings. Quick and large rises in land values, as in Iowa and Illinois, have induced multitudes of owners to sell out and go to newer regions in the United States and Canada where several times the amount they owned can be purchased for what they received. In the southeastern states it is the outcome of the dependency of agriculture on an ignorant, coloured, labour population.

Further, it is likely that when the possibility of procuring cheap land in the United States and Canada has passed farmers in the improved agricultural regions will cease to sell to neighbouring farmers. When this point is reached, and when, also, estates begin to be divided among the descendants of present farmers, we may expect to see the cessation

<sup>6</sup> "Landownership and Tenancy," H. C. Taylor, "Cycl. Amer. Agriculture," 4: 174 ff.

of the consolidation tendency and the development of small and intensive farming.

Farms are almost always leased in Great Britain. In France 77.6 per cent., and in Germany 83.6 per cent. of the farmers own all or a part of their farms, while in the United States 35.3 per cent. are tenants.

**Significance of Land Ownership and Tenant Farming.**—

There are two opposing views as to the effects of tenant farming and small proprietorship.

1. Young and Mill held that small proprietors form the basis of individual prosperity, independence, and well being. Young, who travelled through Europe in 1787–8, and who believed in large agriculture, testified that while there was much poor farming on small properties, “yet the industry of the possessors was so conspicuous and meritorious that no commendation would be too great for it. It was sufficient to prove that property in land is, of all others, the most active instigator to severe and incessant labour.” He thinks the way to get mountains farmed to the very top is to let them out as property to small owners.<sup>7</sup>

Mill reviewed the facts and literature of the continental method of small holdings as opposed to the English practice of large estates in his attempt to get England to see the mistake and loss incident to its practice. He believed the evidence proved that peasant properties conduced to the moral and social welfare of the labouring class by increasing their industry to what a Swiss statistical writer described as “almost superhuman industry”; that territorial arrangement is “an instrument of popular education.” “The mental faculties will be most developed where they are most exercised; and what gives more exercise to them than the having multitudes of interests, none of which can be neglected, and which can be provided for only by varied efforts of will and intelligence?”

<sup>7</sup> Quoted by Mill, “Principles Political Econ.,” Bk. II, Chaps. 6 and 7.



Small proprietorship is "propitious to the moral virtues of prudence, temperance, and self-control." Labourers are liable to spend their entire wage. "The tendency of peasant proprietors, and of those who hope to become proprietors, is to the contrary extreme; to take even too much 'thought for the morrow'; to be penurious. Even among the pleasure-loving French people of the agricultural sort "the spirit of thrift is diffused through the rural population in a manner most gratifying as a whole, and which in individual instances errs rather on the side of excess than defect."

Mr. Mill further holds that small holdings would not interfere with the desirable and much needed purpose on the part of the workers to exercise prudence and restraint in the increase of population. Some writer had held that peasant proprietors would be likely to multiply up to the limits of food production and thus force a minute subdivision of the land. Mr. Mill believes that without education and habituation into the exercise of prudence the land proprietors, like other workers, would increase in number up to the food limits. But that if indoctrinated — like their urban brothers — they would exercise due restraint. Furthermore he marshals facts from Switzerland, Norway, Prussia, and other continental countries to demonstrate that peasant proprietorship not only did not evoke over-population but rather checked it. But even the division of landed property does not necessitate a division of farms, for the Flemish peasantry have the habit of not dividing property.

Concluding his chapters on peasant proprietors he says:

"As a result of this inquiry into the direct operation and indirect influences of peasant properties, I conceive it to be established that there is no necessary connection between this form of landed property and an imperfect state of the arts of production; that it is favourable in quite as many respects as it is unfavourable, to the most effective use of the powers of the soil; that no other existing state of agricultural econ-

omy has so beneficial an effect on the industry, the intelligence, the frugality, and prudence of the population, nor tends on the whole so much to discourage an improvident increase of their numbers; and that no existing state, therefore, is on the whole so favourable, both to their rural and their physical welfare. Compared with the English system of cultivation by hired labour, it must be regarded as eminently beneficial to the labouring class. French history strikingly confirms these conclusions. Three times during the course of ages the peasantry have been purchasers of land; and these times immediately preceded the three principal eras of French agricultural prosperity.”<sup>8</sup>

2. The other view is that effective farming in the future can only be done by a system of large properties and tenant renters whose rights are protected by legal provision. It is held that the capital which needs to be invested in machinery and equipment in order to make farming competitively profitable and possible cannot be provided by small owners. They will be forced to sell to capitalistic owners who can make the large investments needed. Moreover, the fall in prices places a shock on the landlords and farmers which is not felt by other callings in the same manner. Small proprietors have nothing to shield them from the shock and must give way to men of larger resources.

It would seem that recent events and the spirit of present times is in favour of the position held by Mill. The progress that is being made in agricultural development in Europe and Great Britain is most conspicuous just where the larger estates are being broken up, parcelled out, and vested in numerous small proprietors. This is notably the case in Ireland and in Denmark and in both countries farming and dairying have made prodigious progress, and in both the consequences have been of the best for the character and intelligence of the citizenship. New interest in life, renewed

<sup>8</sup> “Principles of Political Economy,” J. S. Mill, Bk. II, Chaps. 6 and 7.

industry, progressive and coöperative undertakings, enriched social and moral life, have been the results.

**Improving the Tenant System.**—How to make a good tenant system is an important consideration. Experience indicates that it cannot be done by law. At least two things are thought to be necessary. First, the existence of a high sense of justice on the part of both landlords and tenants as the basis of a recognition of mutual rights. Second, the development of agriculture to a point where it is possible to ascertain what is right and fair. "For example, both landlord and tenant may be fair-minded, and yet without a knowledge of the rapidity with which a given fertiliser is made use of by a given system of cropping on the various kinds of soils, it is impossible to come to an accurate conclusion as to the proper compensation to be paid to the retiring tenant for unexhausted fertilisers." The British system during a century of experience has marked out a plan of adjustment more complete than elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

Of much importance to rural sociology is the effect on rural social life of absentee landlordism and of tenant farming.

The economic effects of absentee landlordism with its attendant abuses has had historic examples. Perhaps the most notable recent one has been that of Ireland. The profits of the large estates were spent abroad, draining Ireland of its productive capital; the best land of large estates was turned into pasture land; and when tenants made improvements on farms to enlarge the production the rents were systematically raised to absorb the reward of initiative and industry. Consequently a premium was placed on neglect, shiftlessness, drunkenness, and social squalor, and agricultural Ireland was emigrant as to its best and most vigorous element, decadent economically and socially, and rapidly increasing in pauperism and insanity.

<sup>9</sup> H. C. Taylor, "Cycl. Agr.," 174-84.

The various Land Purchase Acts passed by Parliament revolutionised Irish society, for it was mostly agricultural and rural. Small estates could be purchased on one hundred year payments. Buildings and sanitation were fostered. Agriculture and education were promoted. Coöperative undertakings took root. As a consequence the inhabitants are becoming thrifty, industrious, interested in their own community affairs, temperate, and a larger life is full of promise.

In America social degeneration due to tenancy has been noted. Absentee landlordism visits on the given region heavy economic injuries. The tenant who keeps up the buildings, grounds, fences, and fertility of a farm as he would were he owner is rare indeed. No doubt juster laws and more progress in scientific agriculture would form a basis for the correction of some of these matters. Now the tenant sees no profit in the upkeep of the farm. He believes he obtains the greatest advantage in getting the largest returns with the least effort. Could just returns for his efforts be secured the results would be better.

But the economic phase is less important than the social. The community interests are at stake, and are put in jeopardy wherever a neighbourhood is given up to renters dominantly.

This fact has been observed frequently. Strong spoke of it in his "New Era" many years ago. It has received passing attention now and then since that time. Near Syracuse, New York (1894), life in certain tenant communities seemed pathetic. Church, school, and home indicated systematic neglect. In North Central Kansas (1895) renters exercised neither interest nor influence in community matters. Observations in Montgomery County, Illinois (1901-1903), resulted in the belief that schools and churches were declining under tenant conditions. Resident owners recognised and deplored the fact. Observers in North Dakota report similar conditions wherever renting predominates.

As an accompaniment of the neglect of church and school

the moral and cultural tone of the neighbourhood sink low. Coöperative ethical activities of country districts usually reside with the church. The larger cultural and social outlook associate themselves with church and school and are products of their life. Immorality, vulgarity, low ethical ideals, insufficiency of informational and esthetic agencies and outlets result from irresponsibility and transiency.

#### IV. FARM LABOUR

Closely connected with the subject of tenancy is that of farm labour. The topics are commonly treated together but for our purposes it will be better to assign each a separate consideration.

**Labour Supply.**—Deficiency in the supply of farm labour appears frequently enough to indicate seriousness. Various reasons are assigned for the dearth.

First, it is assumed to be inherent in a democracy. Says the Country Life Commission:

“So long as the United States continues to be a true democracy it will have a serious labour problem. As a democracy, we honour labour, and the higher the efficiency of the labour the greater the honour. The labourer, if he has the ambition to be an efficient agent in the development of the country, will be anxious to advance from the lower to the higher forms of effort, and from being a labourer himself he becomes a director of labour. If he has nothing but his hands and brains, he aims to accumulate sufficient capital to become a tenant, and eventually to become owner, of a farm home. A large number of our immigrants share with the native-born citizen this laudable ambition. Therefore, there is a constant decrease of efficient farm labour by these upward movements.”<sup>10</sup>

Second, the seasonal demand for labour produces a deficiency in the supply at the time it is most needed. This

<sup>10</sup> Report of the Country Life Commission, p. 39.

is not confined to one section of the country, but is quite general. It is common in New York in the fall to find camps of men, women, and children along the roadsides who have come out of the cities for a few weeks to engage in hop-picking. In Central Arkansas one observes that the people from the mountain regions, where conditions are backward, travel in covered wagons to the lowlands in the cotton picking season to live and work till the white staple has been gathered. The grain fields of the west central states and of neighbouring Canadian states make their yearly appeal through the press for hundreds of thousands of harvest hands. A standing advertisement in the Grand Forks (North Dakota daily) *Herald*, for weeks preceding the harvest of 1911 called for 50,000 men to care for the grain in the Northwest. Men from the cities, and from the forests of Minnesota make yearly pilgrimages to meet the demand. The advertisements are likely to run ahead of the needs. Winnipeg papers reported that 12,000 men were stranded in that city ten days prior to harvesting. The fruit regions of the Pacific Coast find difficulty and expense in obtaining their pickers at the proper time.

Third, in domestic circles, also, there exists the problem of "help." The larger the farm the more serious the problem. The presence of children in school deprives the mother of home help. Social attractions in cities, the regular hours of labour to be found there and the supposed "higher respectability" of city labour, are conditions which lessen the supply of workers in the country.

Fourth, a permanent labour supply is made impossible by the absence of provision for home and family life on the farm. Married men with families find little encouragement for settling down as hired help.

**Providing a Labour Supply.**—Attempts are made from time to time to obtain a more permanent labour supply. Farmers gravely and copiously discuss the problem but fail

to see that the solution lies in establishing proper and permanent living conditions. The southern states are making a more or less concerted attempt to induce immigrants from abroad to settle and work in the South.

Perhaps the most interesting and serious effort to obtain permanent workers is that of the sugar beet industry. The securing, retention through the season, and making the labour supply permanent constitute a great problem in that industry. The following methods have been or are being worked out.

1. In the middle, eastern, and some western states most of the work has to be done during the summer. Pupils and teachers of schools are available then and are used annually in thinning, weeding, and hoeing beets. These workers are generally satisfactory and improve from season to season.

2. Near large cities the unemployed element go out to farms during the day, Polish women walking out and back daily. Although this is a satisfactory class of labour, because of its industry, and, often, its previous experience with beets in Europe, it is limited to city regions and has to compete with city industries.

3. An attempt is made to induce families to become permanent residents of rural districts. Several methods are used.

First, in one section farmers are building at least one tenant house.

Second, immigrants do not like to be isolated from their countrymen. Several sugar companies are making inducements to get settlers by selling small tracts of land, part of which must be put in beets, on easy terms. Another company forms small farms, builds comfortable homes, furnishes tools, etc., and rents them to farmers who will raise small areas of beets. Yet another company divides its land into acre tracts to rent to Russians exclusively. The family

is to have the land deeded to it after a given number of years.

Third, another plan consists of a portable house furnished for living accommodations of several men. The labourers contract to do the hand work for several beet growers at from \$18 to \$21 per acre, depending on the number of hoeings and other details included in the contract.

Still another method is the use of large groups of Japanese who live in camps and scatter in squads for the work. If they operate under a competent foreman they are capable of doing excellent work, but may become careless and trifling in spite of everything.<sup>11</sup>

In the Northwest it is planned to divide farms into 160-acre tracts and import permanent labourers. A small house will be constructed and a few acres set aside for the free and exclusive use of the labourer. He will work during the summer for the farmer and during the winter if work can be had.

**Effects of Labour Conditions.**— The effects of rural labour conditions are unwholesome and serious. They pertain to those who labour and to the employing communities.

First, certain results ensue from seasonal and transitory conditions. Economically, the present status is unsatisfactory and wasteful. The quality of labour is low and untrained, the amount is often insufficient, it is difficult to obtain at the right time, is hard to retain, and the wages paid are frequently excessively high. Further, there is a potential menace which might become real. If it should happen that the cities were to absorb all the idle labour supply, the farmers would suffer an enormous loss; or they would offer such wages that the workers would be driven to the country, visiting a consequent damage to municipal industries.

Socially and morally community life suffers from the annual invasion of a great transient, irresponsible, and fre-

<sup>11</sup> "Year Book," Dept. of Agr., 1906, pp. 269-74.



quently semi-criminal body of workers. The floating class from the cities is not a desirable element to set free in a neighbourhood. Gamblers, cut-throats, and thieves accompany the pilgrimage to prey upon the labourers and the communities. The sheriff of Polk County, Minnesota, states that the jail of that county, with a capacity of thirty or forty inmates, is filled each fall with characters of the latter class. At other times of the year it has but two or three inmates. This is typical of the region. The effect on the labourers is detrimental. Transient and away from the steadying influences of home surroundings, they are made irresponsible. Socially they have no privileges or life. They often sleep in barns or out of doors in stacks, eat in hordes, and are regarded by the community as social pariahs, and as mere puppets incidental to farming. This tends to perpetuate a hobo class, and to create hoboes afresh. It puts a premium on ignorant labour. The influence on the larger national life and character must be apparent.

Second, there is a condition of country life and labour which arises from intemperance. This excerpt from the "Report of the Country Life Commission" expresses it:

"The liquor question has been emphasised to the Commission in all parts of the country as complicating the labour question. It seems to be regarded as a burning country life problem. . . . The saloon is an institution that must be banished from at least all country districts and rural towns if our agricultural interests are to develop to the extent to which they are capable."

The evils are stated to be especially hard in the South. Prohibition, where it has been adopted, has frequently increased rather than lessened them because of inability or failure to prevent the shipment of liquor into the community from outside.

Third, there are some reactions to the labour situation which are taking place in agriculture. One consists in changes in

farm management by means of which farming is slowly adapting itself to the situation. This is partly in the "nature of more intensive and business like methods whereby the farmer becomes able to secure a better class of labour and to employ it more continuously." More frequently it is "in the nature of a simplification of the business and a less full and active farm life." In the Northwest there exists a tendency toward "a primitive nature farming, with the maximum of grazing and meadow and the minimum of hand labour." Another reaction is toward abandoning the more difficult lands and extending machinery farming.

**Remedial Suggestions.**— There are many remedial suggestions relative to agricultural labour conditions. We have previously noted methods of securing a labour supply. The subcommittee on "unemployed and lack of farm labour" of the New York Commission on accident and prevention says that notwithstanding the severity and undesirability of farm work "it is an undoubted fact that some men would undertake this employment if a system of labour bureaus were available through which they could hear of the work." The Commission recommends "a third deputy commission to have charge of the bureau of public employment offices; such offices to be established in the eight largest cities, together with branches wherever they may be deemed necessary." This provision is to supply demands for work in the various fields, to coöperate with schools, to secure employment suited to the child's abilities, and thus to serve as a vocation bureau.<sup>12</sup>

Second, a substitute for a labour supply is offered in the suggestion that the establishment of smaller farms will enable the farmer to do his own work. Third, scientific agriculture promises to have beneficial effects. A higher order of intelligence on the part of farm labour will be needed in future to secure the necessary productivity. "If rural

<sup>12</sup> *Survey*, May 13, 1911, p. 265.

schools can be organised in such a way as to impart the added knowledge of scientific agriculture to the average boy and girl on the farm, the next half-century will see a continuance of the movement recorded in the last half. Farm labour will become more and more independent and self-directed, and the only large amount of agricultural labour other than that of the farm owner or tenant will be that of his children who are being trained in the art of science and agriculture."

If not, so that the average farm labourer is not able to apply the arts of agriculture successfully "the country will see a return to the customs and organisations of an early date; a few men in charge of large farms and possessing a mastery of the science and art of agriculture will direct the labour of an army of wage employés of a lower grade of intelligence and skill." <sup>13</sup>

Fourth, the establishment of such conditions that labour will be rendered permanent is most desirable and offers the remedy which will be best for the worker and for the community and nation. The agricultural worker needs to be bound to the soil but not as a serf. Labourers have their rights in the community as a community quite as much as the farmers. Our recognition now is based on property ownership rather than on social membership.

(a) The workers must be given facilities for establishing homes. Family and neighbourhood privileges are essentials to contentment and a responsible life.

(b) They must be given better quarters and must be protected from discouragement and the saloon. "The shortage of labour seems to be least marked where the labourer is best cared for." "The best farmers usually complain least about the labour difficulty."

(c) A shortening of hours of work is needful to equalise

<sup>13</sup> "Agricultural Labour," by L. G. Powers, "Cycl. Amer. Agr.," IV: 198.

rural and urban length of the labour day. This should be accomplished to make life attractive. It can be done with the adoption of scientific methods, the vocational education of children, the establishment of machinery to do the drudgery, and the inculcation of a larger view of labour by the farmers. "Already in certain regions of well-systematised diversified farming the average hours of labour are less than ten."

(d) The labourer should be given assistance to contribute his part to community life. A generation of workers educated into such participation would perpetuate its kind.

(e) There needs to be established certain helpful institutions. One is a simple saving institution. In cities and industrial communities it has proven a successful agency in the development of thrift. Another would consist of life insurance adapted to the needs of farm labourers. Coöperative buying and selling associations would assist to cultivate thrift, business management, the power of coöperative effort, and a steadying sense of responsibility and dignity.

Fifth, the lightening of women workers' burdens is demanded. Better planning and building of the house, the adoption of conveniences and comforts, the installation of machinery to do the heavier work, and the teaching of home economics in the schools will go far to render the lot of the "hired girl" easier and pleasanter. The establishment of creameries is taking off much of the hard work connected with the household process. Certain other kinds of work, such as laundering, could be done in an establishment connected with a creamery.

**Accidents Among Farm Labourers.**—We have had occasion to notice the industrial character of agriculture by reason of the large amount of machinery it uses. This same fact makes agricultural work in connection with much of the machinery employed even more dangerous than manufacturing labour. Being distributed over a large area among

many separated communities the serious nature and the large number of accidents have not become generally known and as a consequence sentiment of a preventive nature has not formed and become operative.

The most dangerous machines in Minnesota, where the facts of accidents are being gathered, are corn shredders, corn shellers, wood saws, and belts and gear wheels of various machines, the former ranking first and the latter second in their deadliness. During twenty months corn shredders occasioned forty-one per cent. of the accidents reported. The 1911 Minnesota Legislature passed a law (copied from Wisconsin) designed to prevent these accidents.

In accidents from corn shellers the operator's hands are caught in the feed-rolls and he is drawn into the machine. Prevention consists in safety attachments which make it impossible for the operator to reach these feed-rolls. Guards attached to the wood-saws would be sufficient to prevent serious accidents in their use.

Belts and gears are dangerous because they catch the limbs and clothes of the workers, drawing the latter into the gearing or whirling them about on the belt. Desire for economy on the part of farmers has led manufacturers of agricultural machinery to leave gearings unguarded. The enforcement of legislation calling for appropriate protection of such parts would reach the situation. Permanent guards for the belts of stationary engines, and portable guards for tractors are possible remedies for dangerous belts.

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## CHAPTER XI

### RURAL HEALTH AND SANITATION

#### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Benefits of Betterment.**—The advantages of health are patent. Men have grown healthier and more robust with the development of civilisation. Powell has shown how prolific certain epidemics were among the American Indians at the time of the arrival of Europeans. Their population was frequently decimated by scarlet fever and smallpox and kept at low figures.<sup>1</sup>

Ratzel states that primitive man was more prone to disease, and was less robust and vigorous than our present civilised humanity.<sup>2</sup> Recent investigations indicate that in urban regions longevity increases at the expense of adults, being prolonged by reducing deaths among infants and children. There is some evidence that diseases, like weeds, have a tendency to spread among certain sections of the population.<sup>3</sup> The farming population is, however, more immune from inroads of diseases peculiar to civilisation than urban dwellers as we previously saw.

While all this is true country residents have reasons for seeking to improve rural health conditions. "Of all persons, the farmer should be best provided with healthful surroundings. He has sunlight, clean air, exercise, normal sleep,—blessings so indigenous that he does not know their value; he does not realise the necessity of giving attention to sani-

<sup>1</sup> United States Ethnological Reports, Vol. XV.

<sup>2</sup> W. I. Thomas, "Source Book for Social Origins," pp. 45-47.

<sup>3</sup> "Weeds and Disease," Robert Hessler, M.D., *Survey*, April 1, 1911, p. 51 ff.

tary surroundings. There are no energetic boards of health to look over his premises. He is so separated that the neighbours do not complain. He has taken health for granted. His exercise is likely to be only work, and it may not develop his physique or contribute to the promotion of health. The number of crooked and bent persons on the farm is very great. The city man is likely to have a better carriage. Probably no persons are in greater need of physical training and setting-up than the farmer, to correct effects of his daily occupation and to keep the body resistent and resilient.”<sup>4</sup>

**Direction of Improvement.**—The effort to improve health in rural communities must take several directions. 1. Application of the principle of cleanliness and of sanitation by the elimination of filth- and dust-catchers, and by sterilisation. The emphasis is to be placed on sanitation rather than on medicine. The study of morbidity should be displaced by one of sanitary conditions. People must be taught how to live rather than left to trust stumbling and deficient experience.

Two fundamentals of sanitation are positive and clear: Keep the body in normal condition and function; and exclude all manner of contamination. Each person must come to know himself by self-study, to learn his peculiar personal equation relative to conditions which produce morbidity. He must come to be the authority on what is good or bad for him rather than trust to the advice of a physician who can know his peculiarities of constitution but slightly. Pure air, abundant and regular sleep, regular habits, cleanliness, wholesome food and drink, active exercise, moderation, calm mind, are absolute essentials to health, though they may be trite.

2. Choice and preparation of foods. In some ways the

<sup>4</sup> Bailey — Editorial note to Vol. I, Chap. 8, “Cyclopedia of American Agriculture.”



food of the farmer has great advantages. Because he buys less than city dwellers it is less prone to contamination and adulteration. The cooking may not secure the very best results, but it is generally simple and veracious, and is superior to much that is served at prominent hotels and clubs. There needs to be a reaction against the growing practice of patronising factory made foods in favour of home provisions.

3. Reduction of household work. Frequently on the farm there is an enormous and needless expenditure of energy. Simplification, planning, and the use of mechanical devices are necessary means of its reduction. In many families there is a large and wasteful display in foods. There is a "conspicuous consumption" at the table in which the average person revels when a few simple dishes would be better. Excess, gluttony, and waste in food and labour would be better by their absence.

4. State supervision. This should be in the nature of inspection by governmental authority of the essential conditions of life and should reach to the planning of homes, their management and location, so as to anticipate and prevent diseases and hardships. Professor Irving Fisher gives several reasons for supplementing municipal hygiene. The country has no other kind possible. The city is dependent on the country for water, milk, and other supplies. Typhoid is, in origin, a rural disease and must be combated by controlling rural privies and other sources of pollution. Even in Europe fifty per cent. of the wells are unfit for use according to Koler.<sup>5</sup>

A bureau of health supported by the United States government would be of assistance to rural regions in giving more attention to importation of injurious and adulterated foods and drugs, the prevention of domestic adulteration; investigation into rural human and animal diseases, and the promo-

<sup>5</sup> Report on National Vitality, p. 59.

tion of rural sanitation. The work carried on by the Department of Agriculture in the enforcement of the food and drug act illustrates this. In 1910 it pressed 766 criminal cases and 224 seizure proceedings, gaining convictions in 224 of the former and 132 of the latter, a large portion in each instance remaining pending.<sup>6</sup>

5. Education should be used as an agency of rural health improvement. Besides organised play, which, if introduced, would encourage exercises of a useful nature for symmetrical development, special attention should be given to practical teaching relative to matters of health and sanitation. Available literature of a simple nature now exists to carry on this work, and there is sufficient reason why it should find general use as texts and supplementary reading.

So long as farmers empty slop and sewage about wells which contain their drinking water, dig wells in barnyards to be used alike by man and beast, maintain outdoor closets so vile and filthy as to stifle those using them, leave dead animals to rot unburied near dwellings, encourage conditions which breed germ-transmitting flies by the millions, defy laws of air-space and ventilation in homes and school buildings alike, there is ample confirmation of the assertion that our rural schools should give instruction in these subjects.

## II. SANITATION IN THE HOME.

The subject of household sanitation is almost as large as the field of sanitary engineering. It is so extensive that attention to the details of the matter is practically impossible in the allotted space. The larger essential matters alone will receive consideration.

**Care of the Home.**—Most people are forced to make use of the buildings already on the farm. "In such a case it is well to remember that the cardinal sanitary points about a home are freedom from dampness; light and sunshine in

<sup>6</sup> Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1910, pp. 31-32.

every room; large windows, sufficient air space, good ventilation, and sufficient heat. These should be had at any cost." Small rooms may be merged, improving ventilation and reducing cost of light and heat. Dark and unventilated stairs should be remedied. "The surroundings of a country home should be well kept, the garden being filled with ornamental shrubs and flowers. There should be no backyard littered up with cans, ashes, and other refuse, but there should be some portion of the grounds, close to the house set apart for the use of children." They should be encouraged at an early age to keep their playground free from rubbish which should be burned or buried.<sup>7</sup>

In the general care of a house the matter of dust-prevention is important. The use of rugs which may easily be removed and cleaned, the application of a good floor dressing, elimination of germ laden dust by proper methods of sweeping, cleaning, and dusting, are essential safeguards to health.

**Water.**—1. Poor water and health. There is an increase in the impurity of our water with increase of density of population. Very little pure water exists. "In Vermont the examination of 231 samples of water from wells, springs, and ponds showed that 22 per cent. of the springs, 50 per cent. of the wells, and 41 per cent. of the ponds were impure or of doubtful purity. The importance of pure water to a community is shown by statistics of death rates. They show that with the improvement of city water supplies the death rate has greatly decreased."<sup>8</sup>

2. Wells are depended on chiefly for the water supply in rural districts. They are often made defective by being located on lower ground than privies and barnyards, in the barnyard, and by the absence of curb or tight fitting cover. Pumps are superior to old-fashioned well sweep or pail and rope, though the "Old Oaken Bucket" sounds fine in a

<sup>7</sup> Brewer, "Rural Hygiene," pp. 39-41.

<sup>8</sup> Monthly Bulletin, N. Y. State Dept. Health, April, 1908.

poem. "In India the well-bucket is a fruitful source of the dissemination of cholera, and what is true of cholera is generally true of typhoid fever."

Geological formation has much to do with the quality of water. A good well is one that is sunk into a water bearing stratum that is separated from the surface by an impervious layer of clay, slate, or similar material. It should be curbed, lined with cement from top to bottom, and provided with a tight fitting cover that has sufficient pitch to throw off all rainwater.

Artesian wells usually furnish pure water, save in limestone regions. Depth is not necessarily a sign of purity. A geologist should be consulted as to the strata of a region.

3. It is generally supposed that spring water is pure. The same facts relate to the creation of impurities in springs as in wells. An especial cause of impurity is dipping dirty vessels into it. Clearness of water is not an evidence of purity. Instances are known where large springs have drawn their supply from polluted marshes in the other side of the mountain. Springs should be curbed, covered, and piped.

4. Rainwater is probably the purest country water supply since there is little impurity in the air. Cisterns should be provided with sand and gravel filters to extract particles of dust. The cistern is better located in the garret or above ground, as underground walls frequently crack and let in pollution from surface drainage. As we shall see there are motors of various sorts to elevate water. The pneumatic tank offers a very satisfactory method of elevation.

5. The use of surface water always should be avoided as dangerous, since it is likely to be impure. Sewerage, drainage, tramps, railway trains, animals, are sources of contamination.

6. When a contaminated water supply must be relied on some purification process should be used. The most satisfactory method is a good sand filter, but the cost attached

is usually preventive. Domestic filters are fine in theory but unsafe in practice. The most reliable and economical method is that of boiling the drinking water for a period of from five to twenty minutes. The Forbes steriliser boils water at the lowest possible cost with practically complete destruction of germs. In default of this, boiling in a suitable vessel on the kitchen stove will do. The water should be cooled and kept in a stone jar or "water cooler" safely covered.

The best expedient for determining the purity of the water supply is to send a small bottle of water to the State Board of Health, or to the State Public Health Laboratory for analysis.

**Garbage and Sewage.**—The safe disposal of garbage and sewage, the refuse and slops of the home and barn, are vital matters in farm health.

1. The disposal of ashes, garbage, manure, and miscellaneous refuse is perhaps more a matter of esthetics than of health in the country. Yet the more regularly they are disposed of the better for the healthfulness and comfort of the home. Kitchen refuse from the preparation of food can be saved for the pigs and chickens. It should be collected in galvanised-iron pails which are furnished with tightly closing covers to prevent exposure to the sun and to avoid flies. Whatever cannot be used in this way should be burned or buried. Recently a device has been patented which enables the housekeeper to place the garbage in a section of the smoke pipe of the range, where it dries out rapidly, burns, and leaves only a little charcoal behind, which may be used for fuel.

Manure should be removed for use, both for sanitary and economical reasons. It loses value by fermentation, and by weathering and leaching if left for a considerable time. Moistening will delay fermentation. A simple and cheap device against flies is to have a screened-in cage, into which

the manure is deposited for its weekly or monthly removal.

2. Sewage disposal is positively vital to health. Not only is it important in the open country, but even more, in the half-developed village or town with its usual unsanitary conditions. The contaminating privy and cesspool occur close by the well. The premature introduction of a water supply system causes a saturation of the ground from the sewage, so that the wells of households not yet connected with the water supply are jeopardised. Disastrous results from epidemics of typhoid fever and other diseases often ensue.

The extent to which sewage matter contaminates the soil was shown by Foder for the Hungarian city, Budapest. "By analysing soil at different levels from the surface to a depth of about 15 feet, he found, over an area comprising 15 acres, about 1,000,000,000 pounds organic matter, equivalent to the excrement of 100,000 people voided during thirty-seven years."<sup>9</sup>

If the slops from the kitchen are not fed to animals they may be emptied over a considerable area of ground, a new place being chosen each time. Oxidation and nitrification of the organic matter which is carried on in the open air rapidly converts it into inoffensive earth material. In case a kitchen sink and drain pipe exists, a system of sub-surface irrigation may be used. Earth soil or human excrement may be disposed of in the same manner, where the soil is favourable except in cases of disease, where the use of a water supply produces a solution of not less than 500 parts of water to one of solids.

Filtration by disposing in sand plots is another mode. A tract of sand containing 200 to 400 square feet of surface and having a depth of from three to five feet is best. It should be raked to a depth of an inch each week to keep free from clogging, especially in winter.

Cess-pools should be used in no case. They merely place

<sup>9</sup> Theobald Smith, M.D., *op. cit.*, p. 6.

the sewage out of sight. Uncemented cess-pools allow the surrounding soil to saturate and create a menace. Cemented ones crack and cause the same danger, besides being too troublesome to operate, as frequent cleanings are necessary. Where a water-carriage system is absent the earth-closet is allowable.

The chemical indoor closet is a possible means of disposing of human excrement. A receptacle placed under the seat to catch the excrement contains chemicals which are antiseptic and deodorising in character. Careful attention to emptying the collection of waste and to cleansing the receptacle makes this a safe and desirable mode of disposal, where a water-carriage system is impossible. Neglect constitutes it an instrument of filth and a positive danger to health.

**Insects and Animals.**—Insect life is a source of danger to the health of rural inhabitants. Many of the menaces may be removed. All may be reduced.

1. Flies are the most prevalent and insinuating nuisances and source of disease. Dr. Brewer writes: "Flies are not only a nuisance but are one of the means of disseminating typhoid fever, cholera, and diarrhœa among human beings, and runa and anthrax among horses and cattle." The house fly or stable fly is our worst enemy. It breeds in filth, feeds on excrement, and flies to foods. Its breeding place is preferentially horse-manure, but it uses any collection of vegetable matter for this purpose. Multiplication takes place rapidly. Each female lays about 120 eggs at a time. They develop in about ten days. Consequently about thirteen generations mature during one season and the descendants of one fly may amount to many millions.

The hairy legs and bodies of the fly make splendid lodging places for the disease germs of dust and filth. This is strikingly shown by microscopic examination. The fly wipes its feet on whatever it walks over, as photographs of exposed plates have shown. It is seen how disease germs deposited

in exposed privy vaults, manure piles and garbage heaps may be transferred to the house, and to the foods over which it walks, and thus how everything is polluted it touches.

The preventives for this pestilence may be put tersely. Keep the flies out of the house by means of screens. If they get in exterminate them. Destroy their breeding places by abolishing the privy, clearing away garbage, and covering the stable refuse. Disinfect all discharges from the body which may serve to spread disease germs by means of flies. Place cattle pens, hog lots, chicken yards, and stables some distance from the house.

Besides the house or stable fly, there are chiefly two others which breed in human excrement exclusively, and in over-ripe and decaying fruit.

2. The mosquito is the bearer of malaria. This disease is largely confined to the country and especially to the newer and undrained regions. Only the genus *Anophales* carries malarial germs, the genus *Culex* being innocent. *Anophales* breed "in still side pools of small streams, in the swampy pools at the margins of larger ponds, in stagnant water in ditches, in the beds of old canals, in the still water at the sides of springs, and occasionally, though rarely, in old horse troughs."

A third form of mosquitoes exists, *stegomya*, which is the bearer of yellow fever, inhabiting like the other kinds open and stagnant water.

Preventive means consist in locating the breeding places within several hundred yards of the house, and filling, draining, or treating them with kerosene oil — the kind known as light fuel oil — every two or three weeks; or in introducing certain fish which feed upon the larvæ, such as top minnows, sticklebacks, young sunfish, or goldfish. Frogs also prey upon them. Since malaria and yellow fever can be transmitted, only by mosquitoes which have bitten victims of those diseases, prevention consists in dealing with the insect



bearers. Individuals afflicted with malaria may be cured by the use of quinine. Screening the windows and doors of houses is of course a protection of those within doors against mosquitoes.

3. Certain other insects and animals are disease bearers. The "cat and dog flea" is doubtless the bearer of the bubonic plague, infecting not only cats and dogs, but more insidiously rats and such rodents as ground squirrels. Pink-eye in the southern states is distributed by a very minute flea. "Texas fever" is carried among cattle by the common cattle tick, and anthrax among cattle by the gadflies and horseflies. When these flies subsequently bite human beings malignant pustules may result. The common bedbug is also suspected.

Extermination of the rat in San Francisco stopped the spread of the bubonic plague. The state of California is now waging war on the ground squirrel. Cats and dogs should be kept free from vermin, or else not maintained. Burning sulphur candles, and the use of gasoline, or a mixture of wood alcohol and corrosive sublimate, by means of a vapouriser, are useful means of exterminating bedbugs.

**Foods.**—It is recognised that foods are a great source of danger to health. Adulteration, against which the United States and many states have legislated, and established food commissioners and inspectors, is not the only source. Care in selecting, keeping, and cooking food is needed, especially in the case of meats and animal products.

1. Putrefaction is liable in meats and meat products. This produces a virulent poison known as ptomaine which is a by-product of the growth of the putrefaction bacteria. Cooking does not destroy it. Flesh, fish, shell-fish, milk, cheese, pies, sausages, etc., are subject to this.

2. Unclean fruits and vegetables, contaminated by filth on the soil in which they are grown; or by sprays, handling with unclean hands, exposure to the dust of stores and streets, and even to the filth of dogs, are causes of disease. Thorough

washing, preservation in cool clean places, the adoption of sanitary processes of production, handling, and marketing, are needed protective devices. A clean ice box or refrigerator should be in every house.

3. Hogs are frequent sources of diseased conditions. Trichinosis has its origin in diseased hogs. It is conveyed to them through the fæces of animals or men which are infected, through flesh, and by refuse and rats from slaughter houses; and is conveyed to men by eating uncooked meat, raw pork, or ham. Thorough cooking of hog meat is a safeguard, as is also animal inspection. Hogs are also the source of tape worm which is communicated to them from infected fæces of men or animals; and man contracts it by eating the uncooked meat, or other food washed in infected water, or through unwashed, infected hands. Healthy hogs may be secured to a large degree by constructing piggeries which are clean, warm, well ventilated, and well lighted. This is a decided antithesis to the common notion that anything is good enough for a hog.

4. The milk supply is one of the most important food sources and also causes of sickness. It is produced in the country for both rural and city consumers and has come to receive much attention because of its vital nature. It may be dangerous for two reasons; first, because it contains disease bacteria; second, because it contains too many bacteria.

Of 544,533 deaths in the registration area of the United States in 1905, 105,553 were of children under 5, and of these 39,399 died of enteritis. Behring, an authority of Germany, finds that of every 1,000 children born 233 die during the first year, 510 males out of 1,000 reach manhood, and not over one-third of these are fit for military duty. This he attributes to milk infection during infancy. Dr. George Goler of Rochester has shown that clean milk has reduced mortality of the city in children of five and under, from 7,451 in the decade 1887-96 to 4,965 in that from 1898-

1906, although meanwhile Rochester increased its population from 20 to 25 per cent.

Tubercle bacilli are frequent in milk. It is evident that if tubercular cows give tubercular milk and that if persons consuming this milk may contract the disease, which has been demonstrated, government inspectors of milk cows or preventive treatment of milk are necessary.

Hogs may contract tuberculosis by feeding on infected milk. Butter and cheese preserve the germs a long time and consequently it is not safe to manufacture tubercular milk into those products.

Not only may disease bacteria get into milk from cows, but they may intrude during milking from manure on the cow, dust in the barn, filthy hands and clothes of the milker, unsanitary pails, and improper methods of preservation. Schroeder estimates that as large a quantity as one part of cow dung to 400 of milk is sold in many cities. Good authorities believe milk is dangerous when it contains over 50,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. The Pediatric society of Philadelphia puts 10,000 as the maximum, although milk in most cities contains millions of these germs, especially in the winter months.

Sanitary requirements on the farm consist in securing healthy cows, in keeping them clean and in clean, well protected, well ventilated barns in winter. The following requirements are recognised in order to have a pure milk supply: (1) Healthy cows. (2) Wholesome food and pure water for cows. (3) Good protection against storms and cold to prevent exposure and colds. (4) Clean barns, cows, and milking places. Dust and dirt convey bacteria, and odours impose a bad taste to the milk, alfalfa especially. Cows should be groomed before milking. (5) Sufficient ventilation in barns. Each cow secretes about 7 pounds of moisture daily in breathing, sufficient to provoke tuberculosis where ventilation does not exist. (6) Clean hands and

clothes in milking. (7) Sterilised pails, and if used, mechanical milkers. (8) Milk should be cooled, as soon as drawn, to a temperature of  $45^{\circ}$  to  $50^{\circ}$ , and kept at that or below, since bacteria multiply very rapidly at a higher temperature.

**Transmissible Diseases.**—Malaria, tetanus, diarrhœa, dysentery, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis are considered transmissible. They are all serious either in themselves or in after effects. Measles is followed by such results as deafness from inflammation of the ears, and even tuberculosis; scarletina, one of the most serious diseases of childhood, is followed by disorders of kidneys, deafness, and feeble-mindedness; whooping cough, one of the most fatal diseases to children, may result in pneumonia or tuberculosis of lungs. Mental deficiency follows childhood afflictions often enough to make them dreaded.

Each one of these diseases may have its particular kind of cause and its special régime or line of treatment. We have already discussed typhoid, malaria, tuberculosis, in certain respects, in so far as they depend on special kinds of sources. Preventive means of those special conditions were suggested. Diphtheria may require the use of antitoxin; smallpox, of vaccination, etc.

Our province is to suggest general precautions which should be resorted to when a disease is suspected. Such precautions as the following should be adopted:

(1) Isolate in a room accessible only to the nurse or person taking care of the patient. (2) The attendant and physician should slip on a gown or its equivalent while in the sick room. (3) Secretions and excreta should be disinfected before taken from the room. (4) As soon as the subject is stricken the bed and body clothing should be disinfected. (5) Separate eating utensils, clothes, cloths, etc., should be kept in the sick room and disinfected there. (6) Neigh-

bours should be excluded from the sick room absolutely, and from the home if possible.

### III. NEIGHBOURHOOD SANITATION.

**Need of Coöperation.**—Sanitary and hygienic precautions on the part of the neighbourhood are almost as essential to the health of a community as are those of the individual home. The individuals of a community visit from home to home, attend church and other congregating places, and especially the children meet each other daily in school. It is apparent that conditions of various kinds arise over which the homes of a neighbourhood, acting in their individual capacities, can have no control, and yet by which their health is placed in jeopardy.

Swamps and ditches containing stagnant water, on the surface of which pestilential mosquitoes breed, may exist in the neighbourhood. Collective action is required to drain or fill such places. Mines and factories may dump their refuse into the streams which pass through the farms to contaminate the water supply. Nearby cities may pollute the streams or neighbouring low places with their sewage and garbage. Trains which pass through drip with oil and from their toilet rooms emit quantities of human excrement. Tramps leave their refuse strewn around. The slaughter houses of villages and small cities are located in the country and are commonly without regulation. Pernicious and germ laden dust from adjoining highways is swept into open homes in the summer.

Only concerted action by the residents of the community is capable of remedying many of those conditions. Some of them, as that of the distribution of human excrement by trains, require regulation by the larger public, state or nation. But agitation and discussion of every one of them by the public brings enlightenment and finally remedial measures.

**The School and School Children.**—The school constitutes a special condition which requires particular attention. If every home took perfect care of its children, watching them diligently to detect the symptoms of transmissible diseases, and isolating them as soon as such malady is discovered, following the precautions outlined in the preceding division, very little attention by the school to such matters would be needed. Unfortunately this ideal state in the homes is wanting. Very few parents withdraw their children from public concourse as soon as one of the so-called “harmless” varieties is detected. Very few of the disinfecting preventives and precautionary devices for spreading the sickness farther are practised. Investigations into health condition of school children indicate the prevalence of transmissible diseases.

Of 432,937 children examined in Massachusetts in 1906, 27,342 were found diseased, not including those with defective eyes or ears.

The following table gives a list of the diseases and the number of children subject to each.

TABLE XIX  
DISEASES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Diphtheria .....	238	Other diseases of oral and	
Scarlet Fever .....	313	respiratory tracts .....	5,103
Measles .....	637	Otitis (inflammation of ear)	407
Whooping Cough .....	973	Other diseases of ear.....	363
Mumps .....	267	Conjunctivitis .....	779
Chicken Pox .....	548	Other diseases of eye.....	2,159
Influenza .....	276	Scabies and pediculosis....	8,745
Syphilis .....	36	Skin diseases .....	3,453
Tuberculosis .....	115	Nervous diseases .....	146
Erysipelas .....	17	Deformities .....	142
Adenoids .....	2,525		
		Total .....	27,342

Similar results have been obtained in other large cities. Conditions there are no doubt intensified by close contact. But if the list surpasses that of the country in transmissible

diseases, it is scarcely likely that this is the case relative to affections of eyes, ears, nostrils, spine, etc.

The latter class of defects mentioned calls for quite as serious attention on the part of rural schools as transmissible diseases. Deficiency in physical conditions of children mounts very high in cities. Recent statistics bring this out in a most alarming way. From 25 and 30 to 70 and 75 per cent. of defective children are found, the per cent. varying from city to city. The accompanying (Table XX) table exhibits the percentages of the most frequent physical defects in four of our large cities.

TABLE XX

## PHYSICAL DEFECTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Defects	New York	Balti- more	Phila- delphia	Minne- apolis
Defective teeth .....	74%	10.5%	1.7%	41.8%
Adenoids .....	39	5.3	1.0	14.8
Enlarged tonsils .....	46	11.1	4.5	27.6
Enlarged glands .....		1.6	0.23	49.6
Defective hearing and ear troubles .....	1	0.37	0.96	8.1
Defective vision and eyes..	15	4.5	1.3	21.2
Pediculosis .....	0.4	4.4	2.0	12.1
Skin diseases .....			2.06	

All of these defects need attention. They may not be immediately serious but they place a great handicap on the child in his work, retarding his mental development, placing an effectual check on some attainments, impoverishing his body, and often driving him from school.

Pencils, books, and the public drinking cup, in the school are means of scattering diseases. The importance of the common cup to public health is generally recognised. Ten states have prohibited its use. Similar legislation is pending in eleven other states. Twenty State Boards of Health, and as many city boards, have decried against it. In 1911, the New York City Board of Health prohibited its use in public

place or institutions, hotel, theatre, factory, public hall, public school, railway station or ferry house.<sup>10</sup>

The germs of grippe, pneumonia, diphtheria, and tonsilitis are carried in the mouth of many well persons. Examinations have proved this: 100 persons out of 4,250 persons examined in Massachusetts, 5 per cent. in Philadelphia, and 70 out of 1,000 in Minnesota carried diphtheria germs; 60 per cent. of catarrh cases in Boston showed grippe bacilli; and considerable evidence existed of the presence of germs of sore throat, pneumonia, bronchitis, and tuberculosis. Examinations of drinking cups reveal the accumulation of such germs. One cup in use nine days in a school contained not less than 100,000 bacteria on every square inch of the glass.

In the cities medical inspection of school children, along with a system of nurses to secure treatment in free clinics for the children where parents will not look after them, are solving the problem. The playground should also be mentioned as a factor.

The problem is a difficult one in the country. Medical inspection has not yet been worked out for rural regions. It would seem that a system of travelling inspectors would be entirely possible, one for a given township or larger district for example. Until a plan is put into operation rural teachers must be their own inspectors. "Every rural teacher should know enough about children's diseases to discover by their outward signs the common contagions, and, acting upon this knowledge, place the patient under a physician's care. He should be able to detect the minor eradicable defects in pupils under his care, as, for example, enlarged tonsils, adenoids, and incorrect vision. Then he should be strong enough in his duty to insist that all such ailments be given immediate attention."

Ventilation, moisture, heat, and light are important matters in the school room. The one-room school house is gen-

<sup>10</sup> *Survey*, April 22, 1911, p. 146.



erally built without much regard to these things. There should be plenty of light introduced from the back or sides of the room above the heads of the pupils. A jacketed stove should be used. An invention permits air to be taken from without, drawn up within the stove jacket, and distributed evenly throughout the room. The same device provides fresh air laden with moisture from outdoors.

The toilets and drinking water are other matters for control. What has been said elsewhere about securing sanitary conditions relative to these will apply here. But safety devices in the school are even more demanded than in the home. The water should be kept in the hall in a covered tank or cooler and drawn from a spigot into individual sterilised drinking cups. Where sewage disposal cannot be operated by the water-carriage system the earth closet should be resorted to, and provided with an automatic device for distributing the earth. There should be separate buildings for the sexes, each provided with suitable seats for the children of different sizes. These buildings should be heated in winter if possible, kept clean, and inspected daily by the teacher, who should also prevent loafing and bad language in them.

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## CHAPTER XII

### MAKING FARM LIFE MORE ATTRACTIVE

**Satisfaction the Object.**—The title of this chapter suggests the motive of the discussion of the “depopulation” of rural districts, and the “back to the farm” tocsin. The popular conception is that country population is to be saved from absorption by the cities by making farm life centripetal rather than centrifugal through increasing its inherent seductiveness. Make the farm attractive to keep the people from gravitating to the city is the prescription.

However worthy that conception may be, it is not the motive of this chapter. The country cannot hope to keep pace with the city in the adoption of the many utilities and attractions which give it charm and centralising power. Nor can it hope to escape the conditions which determine that relatively more and more persons shall dwell in the city with the advancement of agricultural production. Our purpose is to indicate, rather, how science and invention, in their application to the art of work and living, may be directed to the improvement of rural life because agricultural inhabitants have a right to the benefits of civilisation.

The material conveniences and utilities of the permanent population have much to do in producing satisfaction. Drudgery may come from hours which are too long, from a pace which is too rapid, and from having to carry on work under unnecessarily hard conditions. To see the heavier labour taken over by mechanical devices rather than being performed by men or even animals should be a cause of thankfulness.

The German sociologist Simmel states that the ideal of

society relative to the expenditure of human energy is to create machines that will do all the heavy work of the world. If man is capable of inventing mechanical devices to accomplish all the hard work, men may devote themselves to directing their energies. The decided tendencies toward pushing machinery into every sort of work are predictive of the realisation of Simmel's ideal. It is emancipating the masses of labourers from that which can be but mere drudgery. It is hoped that farmers may cope with other kinds of producers in becoming master of things. Besides inventions of a larger nature there are numerous conditions and utilities through the adoption of which living may be greatly advanced. These lessen hardships, make health and life safer, and promote satisfaction and comfort.

A comparison of urban and rural modes of living shows that the former is vastly advanced beyond the latter. City people of inconsiderable means use conveniences which most farming persons would regard as luxuries, and as being possible only in cities. The explanation of this is found in the traditional and narrow view of life which the countryman takes. He is tightly bound by custom. What was the way of his father is good enough for him. An investigation made by the *Northwestern Agriculturist* illustrates this conservatism.

"Letters were sent out to 3,456 farmers in the Northwest, asking them several questions. When we tabulated the replies we got some startling facts. We found that less than three per cent. had modern lighting equipment in their homes. Fifty per cent. had wind-mills, while ten and one-half per cent. had water supply in the house. That is the difference between the farmer's cows and their wives. The one has water pumped for them, the other pumps the water themselves." <sup>1</sup>

As in the case of securing effective agricultural organisa-

<sup>1</sup> Address of P. V. Collins, *Wisconsin State Journal*, October 27, 1911.

tions much educational effort of an intense kind will be required to induce country populations to adopt newer and advanced modes of living.

### I. FARM BUILDINGS

Much of the satisfaction to be derived from life in the country is centred in farm buildings. Most of the woman's life and a large share of that of man is spent in the dwelling. A considerable portion of the man's work and efficiency as a producer is connected with the barn and other outbuildings.

**Principles of Construction.**—1. There are some general principles applicable to the construction and arrangement of farm buildings. These pertain to efficiency, arrangement, taste, comfort, convenience, and health. A good and proper building is one which secures the greatest efficiency in relation to the given surroundings for the least outlay. Where there are several buildings economy of time and energy can be gained by arranging them in their logical relation to each other, and by advisably concentrating them. In some cases concentration under one roof may be found an advantage. Taste as well as economy should be applied in the construction of buildings.

“There is no abstract canon of good taste in farm buildings except that they shall be perfectly adapted to the uses for which they are designed and shall bear no meaningless or irrelevant parts or ornaments. Theoretically, the cylindrical stone silo is inharmonious in connection with farm barns; but because it serves a direct purpose, we accept it without question. If such a construction were added merely ‘for looks,’ it would be ridiculous.”

Buildings should be constructed and fitted to yield the largest satisfaction. Because the health and sanity of man and beast are conditions of life, happiness, and prosperity, much effort should be given to making country life conditions sanitary.

2. Farm buildings should be carefully planned. Buildings erected which are not modern and therefore not adapted to present needs are a barrier. Capital is invested in them and they are not likely to be torn down. They may be too small, inconvenient, poorly adapted to the demands made upon them, but they must be kept.

It is essential that the demands of present agriculture be met in providing barns and other buildings other than the farm-house. It is too much to expect that the average man can peer into the future and plan his buildings to meet coming changes. However, if he understands present conditions he is quite likely to be in line with future developments. A recent writer on eastern agricultural conditions says:

“A common measure of the supposed decline of farming is the fact that many farms can now be purchased for less than the buildings cost. This statement of itself does not appeal to me as having any special significance. A property is likely to sell for what it is worth, and this worth depends on its effectiveness as an economic unit or enterprise. Most of the buildings on these farms were erected a generation or more ago, when ideas of farming were radically different from those of the present day. The coming business of farming will demand a wholly new type of building in order to make the property effective, and we must overcome our habit of looking back to the time when the present buildings were erected. Barns and other business buildings that were erected fifty or sixty years ago should owe the farm nothing by this time.”<sup>2</sup>

It is often the case that both houses and barns are built under an emergency. Unless possessed of ample means so that contingencies may be provided for the builder should be careful to design his buildings in such a way that they may be readily enlarged as needs arise, economising money at the same time convenience is gained.

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, “The State and the Farmer,” pp. 25-6.

## II. IMPROVEMENT OF THE UTILITIES OF HOME AND FARM

The utilities of home and farm are important means of gauging the volume of the life of the inhabitants. In general, larger existence comes with the increase of opportunity for leisure and meditation, the lessening of drudgery, and the establishment of conveniences which make for comfort and health. All of these things may be called utilities. Their improvement is possible and manifestly desirable. Certain preconditions to this improvement exist and these will be dealt with first.

**Preconditions: Motor Power.**—Many of the economies, decrease of drudgery, and increase of comfort and health are dependent on the installation of a cheap and easily managed motor power. Some discussion of the different forms of motors is necessary to determine which is most available for farm use.

Steam, water, gas, hot air, electricity, and wind constitute the kinds of motors which are presented for the farmers' selection.

The comparative availability of the different kinds of power on the farm is determined by simplicity, demanding little special training for operation, and adaptability to the various kinds of work which is to be done by the motor. Special circumstances may determine which will be selected by a given farmer.

Wind and water power might be considered the most available since nature seems to offer them freely in many places. Water power may be said to be quite as expensive as most fuels, since it requires expense in construction of the dam and in installation of the initial machinery. However, after once installed it is cheap and useable. If converted into electricity it may be made to do almost any service the farm requires.

Wind-mills are useable in certain regions. Through the



use of storage tanks, or if converted into electricity through the use of storage batteries, the regularity of operation of their power is assured.

The development, storage, and utilisation of wind power is being subjected to scientific investigation by physicists. It is estimated that a coöperative 16-foot wind-mill and storage battery plant could be established for \$2,027.50. This would include a small stationary gasoline engine to tide over periods of light winds, and would supply about fifteen families with light. A twelve-foot mill plant could be established for about \$600. This would be sufficient to light the house and to furnish power for the machinery of the home.<sup>3</sup>

The gas engine depending on a producer is unavailable for average farm purposes because gas-producer plants are not successful for sizes less than 25 horsepower, nor for intermittent work. Besides the objection due to their size large steam engines are too intricate and dangerous for common use.

The hot air engine is available only for pumping purposes. It is built to pump from 150 to 3,500 gallons per hour. Its advantages are stated to consist in its simplicity, usability of all sorts of fuel, ease of erection, and demand of unskilled attention.

Electric motors are becoming more available for farm purposes from year to year. A dynamo is required to supply the current and the dynamo depends on some engine for operation. Proximity to power stations, trolley lines, or coöperative establishments reduces expenditures and simplifies machinery. The power is cheap and offers the advantages

<sup>3</sup> "The Development, Storage and Utilisation of Wind Power," A. Hoyt Taylor, Ph.D., University of North Dakota Departmental Bulletin, March, 1912. Mr. Manikowske of Mooreton, N. Dak., has taken out a patent on a storage-battery charged by wind-power. He has applied this power to all the utilities about the barn and house. See "The Challenge of the Country"—G. W. Fiske, p. 80.

of being clean, safe, occupying small space, being instantly available, and usable anywhere with the extension of power lines. Several manufacturing firms are now building electric equipment for farm work. Besides the instances of use in the United States cited in a previous chapter, large farms in Germany use it considerably for thrashing and other indoor work, and to a limited extent for ploughing.

The automobile traction motor, as we saw, has been adapted to the needs of farm life. It is not only a good draft and carrying instrument but may be used as a stationary engine to drive machinery of the farm buildings or to furnish power for household purposes. For a jack-of-all-trades business it cannot be equalled. But its very ubiquity may be against depending on it regularly for certain important purposes. A supplementary stationary motor would furnish this regular and constant service.

**Improvement of House and Household Processes.**— It is not the province of a work of this nature to attempt to give the detailed description of an up-to-date yet modest farm home. Our purpose is rather to justify the creation of such a home and to indicate in a general manner how attainable and feasible it is.

A modern home in the city may at the same time be modest in size and price. Such a home would have the following improvements: a heating plant which might be any of the varieties of hot-air, steam, or hot water, or a combination of hot air and hot water; an inside toilet and bath room; a laundry as a separate and distinct room, however small; a well equipped kitchen with neighbouring pantry and ice-box; and generally gas or electric lighting. Such homes are owned or rented by families whose wealth and income would not compare favourably with those of the average farmer.

A heating plant is desirable because it is clean and therefore sanitary, regular in its operation, requires little attention, heats all parts of the house when needed without addi-

tional work, and keeps the first floor comfortable by reason of the fact that it is situated in the basement. Hot-air and hot-water systems are simple in operation and easily taken care of. Hot water and steam require some attention to prevent freezing and bursting of pipes and radiators, but no more than in city homes. A full concrete basement adds to the warmth, durability, and space of the house, affording space for fuel, and for ashes during the winter, if desired. It may also contain a fruit and vegetable cellar, and a laundry, when plenty of ventilation is provided. This is the general provision in very cold climates, but it would probably prove unsanitary in more southern regions.

On bath room and inside toilet facilities depends much of the health and comfort of the household, and more particularly the comfort and health of the women of the house. Bathing regularly during the colder parts of the year is a lost art, at least in many homes, yet it is absolutely requisite to cleanliness of person and to physical efficiency. The fact that many persons have grown old in spite of its omission does not demonstrate its uselessness. Health and regularity of habits are conditioned by the comfort and convenience of toilets. Much constipation with all its attendant and consequent complications arises out of irregularity of habit which is brought on by neglect. And the neglect arises from outdoor, exposed, and often filthy toilet conditions.

The bath is made possible by the establishment of motor power. In case the earth is too flat for drainage purposes the bath and toilet may be drained into a flush tank which holds the sewerage during twenty-four hours. This is drained automatically into the soil previously prepared for oxygenation and sterilisation. A sanitary chemical toilet is now put upon the market and is installed in many small rural hotels. Its sanitation is only dependent on attention to cleaning and supplying the chemicals. With the establishment and drainage of the bath this would be superfluous.

A separate laundry is very desirable. It is more efficient because it is specially constructed and equipped for its purpose. It economises the space and work of other rooms by leaving them unobstructed with washing appliances. It is more sanitary and healthful because it takes care of the fumes and waste apart from the remainder of the house. Its construction and provision is no more difficult than that of any other room or farm improvement.

The well planned kitchen, with its pantry adjoining, or with pantry shelves located in it, and with its ice-box in a neighbouring vestibule or specially prepared room, is a labour- and mind-saver to the housewife. Scientific management, which is now being applied to labour, is scientific because it makes the conditions under which the work is performed such that steps and movements are reduced to their minimum, and the load is adjusted to the bearer. If anywhere in the world this principle should be applied to the kitchen. The articles and utensils to be used many times a day should be so placed relative to the user and to each other as to call forth the fewest movements, and the least effort.

Sanitation in the care of foods is likewise highly desirable in equipping the kitchen. The ice-chest is extremely serviceable in accomplishing this end.

A lighting system, either gas or electricity, is now available for farm homes. Either gasoline or acetylene plants may be constructed at reasonable expense and the home may be furnished with as good lights as are city homes. In fact many city homes establish private plants because they secure better and more economical lights than the public systems give. The care of lamps, danger from explosion, inconvenience of carrying them from room to room as well as of lighting, the unhealthful odours they create, together with a poorer quality of light, are avoided by installing a lighting system. In case there is a motor electric lights may be easily installed and possess obvious advantages.

Certain kitchen improvements and devices are to be viewed as necessities rather than incidents or luxuries. A task is done inefficiently and uneconomically when it unnecessarily depletes the worker. The farm woman's life is hard enough at best. There is enormous work to be done. Labour-saving devices should be installed wherever possible.

With a motor plant to furnish power the water will be carried to its place of use and slops disposed of by means of pipes; washing machines, wringers, churns, sewing machines, and separators will be run by bands connected with the source of power; electricity and gas may even be used to cook and iron with.

The processes of housekeeping should be based on the principles of household economics. Woman's sphere in rural life would be vastly improved by training women in these principles. Not only the ease of performance but the satisfaction derived in conducting the household along scientifically effective lines would be increased. Above all, since food is the foundation and support of life the scientific preparation and preservation of foods would conduce much to their efficiency in building up working ability. Knowledge of furnishings for the house in order that good taste and economy should be promoted would be a valuable adjunct. The application of good sense in the selection of the finish and furniture of the house would serve to make housekeeping less burdensome. What some one speaks of as the elimination of "dust lines" is an example of this. If all the meaningless mouldings and panels, curved mop-board, and so on, were excluded the work of dusting would be immensely reduced.

House-cleaning is now being done by machinery in an easier and more sanitary manner than was possible by the use of broom and dustpan. The suction or vacuum cleaner run by motor power draws the dust out of floor, carpets, rugs, and from walls without scattering germ-laden dust in the air to

pollute and infect the throat and lungs. Hand-power vacuum cleaners of different designs and prices are giving large satisfaction.

**Improvement of Out-of-Door Work.**— We have considered this feature of farm life from the business side. Now we want to view it in its relation to the intensification of satisfaction and the reduction of the element of superfluous drudgery, because this obstructs enjoyment and creates aversion to farming. Drudgery of farm life is commonly given as a motive for rural emigration. While we are not advocating the adoption of agricultural improvements merely to lessen this emigration, it is worth considering as a partial key to making rural advance. It at least reveals one sore spot in country economy.

No doubt the whole matter of improving the business of farming as a business policy could be viewed on the other side as a splendid means of securing satisfaction in the pursuit. Accurate records and accounts must yield the joy of assurance to the manager that an exact knowledge of the conditions of a business always produces. Science carried out in soil fertilisation, in plant and animal breeding and in their culture must yield a strong intellectual stimulus and satisfy the psychic cravings and ideals. And in like manner there is a joy which arises in executing work through mechanical devices which utilise the great forces of nature and perform with exactness and speed the allotted task. But our particular note here is that the adoption of artificial contrivances of an advanced but approved type enhances the life of the farmer by reducing the expenditure of human energy.

The following particulars will serve to indicate some ways in which machinery may lighten the farmer's tasks. Riding devices propelled by horses or motors exist for ploughing, harrowing, disking, seeding, harvesting, and cultivating. Only small farming or trucking, where very intensive cultivation is carried on, demands much walking and hand labour

in producing crops. Pitching is done by hay loaders and forks worked by power. Indoor work such as shelling, fanning, separating milk, pumping water, and chopping feed may be done by motor attachments as we have seen. Threshing is carried on by machinery wholly and is becoming a less dusty task through the application of self-feeders, bundle carriers, automatic measures, and pneumatic stackers. Pitching bundles in the field, like shocking bundles in harvesting, seem open for inventions. Shovelling grain entails much hard labour which it seems might be partly obviated. If granaries were constructed with an elevated drive for dropping grain into the bins, and if the floors of the latter were raised sufficiently to permit chutes carrying the grain into wagons, gravity would do the work.

Milking may be done by means of pneumatic milkers. These are said to operate satisfactorily but are most available where there are several cows to milk. Cutting corn for the shock by hand is obviated by the corn or fodder cutter. Much of the arduousness of choring could be reduced by a happy arrangement of the barn and the grouping of outbuildings so as to save steps and handling feeding material.

Farming might almost become a sedentary occupation with the use of machinery. By its intensive employment farm life would be made more enjoyable for the worker and the growing boys and girls would have proper time for recreation and sports.

Some improvement of life by the regulation of labour is possible. A distribution of farm industry over the whole of the year, thus preventing a seasonal rush, is desirable. This is especially true of the more northern climates. Seeding, harvesting, and threshing times are periods of great labour stress. The days are lengthened and the pace is likely to be rapid. With a one-crop system this is likely to be inevitable because the areas cultivated must be large and both safety and completion demand concentration of labour energy

into a very few days or weeks. The natural corrective for this is found in a diversification in farm industry, the carrying on of animal and poultry culture, of dairying, and of plant and grain culture; and the adoption of several crops maturing, and requiring to be seeded at different times.

This diversification would have to be exercised with caution, however, for to carry it to great lengths would demand such a large investment in numerous kinds of machinery that each would not be used enough to justify the absorption of the capital.

### III. IMPROVEMENT OF GROUNDS

**Justification.**—Several motives exist for giving attention to the home grounds. First, there is the individual satisfaction which arises from a love of the beautiful and pride in comely surroundings. Much discontent with farm life is produced by unattractive and barren features of the homestead and landscape. This is particularly true where nature is niggardly in supplying variety. Level plains without trees are apt to seem monotonous and dreary, especially in the long winters of northern regions.

Second, a satisfaction in the appearance of the countryside as a whole, and even a sense of duty in improving the landscape view, are involved. "It is everybody's concern how the neighbourhood looks. One slovenly place is a blot on the neighbourhood. The scenery is one of the assets of a country; and the appraisal of this asset is bound to increase with time, because the educated mind is always sensitive to its surroundings. Any person who needlessly or ignorantly despoils the scenery is guilty of an offence to the community, whether so recognised by law or not."<sup>4</sup>

As in the city, one unkempt home or farm mars the beauty of the whole. It is desirable that there shall come to be a

<sup>4</sup> *Farmers' Bulletin*, U. S. Dept. of Agr., No. 185.



public conscience which will make it an offence to offend a neighbour's eye as it is now to offend his purse.

Third, protection is afforded by certain kinds of beautification and improvement. This is a large element where nature has made no provisions. Where neither elevation nor forests occur and storms of wind and cold sweep over the levels, protective barriers become almost a necessity. The blizzard, the sweeping dust, snow, and rain, the venom of cold and the torridity of sun all may be tempered by the intervention of artifice.

**Agencies.**— The agencies and methods of securing æsthetic results in the country must depend on the character of the region, climatic conditions, interest, ability, and means of the individual proprietor, and the coöperation and ideals of the community. Rural art is not only negative, consisting in the removal of offensive objects; but positive and constructive, consisting in laying out highways, farms, fields, and home grounds in such a manner as to appeal to the eye.

In the "Cyclopedia of American Agriculture" is presented contrasting views of countryside landscapes. In one, no attention has been paid to looks. Fields are irregular and farms without perspective. Fences and buildings are slatternly, roadsides unkempt, and natural attractions undeveloped or marred. In the other order, proportion, chaste cleanliness, and regard for beauty prevail. Fields are regular and ordered relative to each other. Roads, fences, and buildings are well kept. Attention has been paid to directing the highways in attractive surroundings. Natural objects are given a chance to display themselves. The contrast is striking and impresses the spectator with the value of improving the larger aspect of rural regions.

The chief methods of securing æsthetic ends in the construction of home grounds is such an arrangement of drives, trees, shrubs, and lawns as to realise satisfaction and protection. Even if the grounds are relatively small these results

A separate laundry is very desirable. It is more efficient because it is specially constructed and equipped for its purpose and may be secured by careful planning. In the northern regions, where grass and leaves are in retirement during the larger part of the year, it is desirable to set out with other trees such conifers as the Scotch pine, whose annual growth equals that of box or green oak.<sup>5</sup> In summer the effect is one of contrast to the other trees and growing plants; in winter by retaining their leaves they carry with them an expression of life and warmth, and when draped in snow and ice the long graceful branches of pines and spruces lend a decided charm. The massing of shrubbery of several different varieties secures contrast in verdure and colour, suggests protection and warmth, or covers some building or undesirable effect of landscape. The smooth, thickly grassed lawn is always a delight. By the addition of shrubs and trees, providing its area is not too restricted, its attractive features are enhanced.

<sup>5</sup> See Circular 145 of the Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agr.

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## CHAPTER XIII

### SOCIALISATION OF COUNTRY LIFE

**Meaning of Socialisation.**—Socialisation commonly refers to the historical process of developing in individuals the associational ability. This does not mean that man ever was inherently individualistic in his constitution. Man as man probably never was unsocial, since he was evolved from animals below him which were social.

It does mean that, viewing society as a developing organisation, becoming more and more complex in its mechanism and requirements, man has had to be trained and disciplined by an age-long process into fitness to work in and through this mechanism. It involves the spirit of response, the power of sympathetic coöperation, and an intellectual and technical capacity to stand the strain of responsibility.

The difference between primitive and civilised man lies less in the difference in their original inherent physical and psychical capacity than in the fact that the modern man has the advantage of an improved social mechanism which offers opportunities and possesses great elasticity in making response. Growing up in the midst of a more highly developed social medium, and surrounded by its richer atmosphere, he is enabled consequently to take deeper draughts of wisdom and experience.

Socialisation as applied to objects and institutions consists in reconstructing them and making them amenable to the uses society demands. Institutions may become so conservative that they stand still. They may come to act as veritable obstacles to the advancement of other social institutions and of life. Thus creeds and beliefs, churches and schools, have

to be considered with reference to the changed epoch and new demands, and reconstructed to meet the new conditions.

The meaning remains essentially the same when we refer to the socialisation of a community. If a neighbourhood is in question it may be found to be backward. Some of its institutions and modes of life may require reconstruction or elimination. Or it may need socialisation because it lacks altogether one or more institutions or modes of life which have come to be regarded as in some way necessary to the age and to completer living.

The point of view lies back of institutions and processes. Things remain as they are because the views of people who maintain them do not grow. The transformation of institutions, beliefs, modes of doing things, and customs involves the preparatory work of recasting and revolutionising the ideas of men relative to those things. The socialisation of a community involves revolutionising its citizens' minds relative to its institutions and utilities. They must be so changed in their views that they will not only permit but demand that modern needs shall be met by this work of reconstruction.

We have already treated certain phases of the socialisation of rural life. We have considered socialisation in pointing out the improvements which are necessary in the material and business processes of farming so that they shall be adequate to the demands of this age; in denoting desirable improvements of the house, the buildings, and the grounds; in treating the application of labour saving devices to the work of farming; and in indicating the demands which a wholesome rural life must make on the size of the farm, the condition of ownership or tenancy, and the status of labourers. Our present undertaking requires a similar consideration of the conditions and factors which are directly bound up with associational matters.

**The Fact of Backwardness.**— 1. General recognition of so-

cial backwardness of country. Whether or not rural social life is barren over and above the emptiness of the city, the consensus of opinion lies in that direction. That this contention is not entirely empty may be concluded by the testimony of people either closely acquainted with farm life or of those actually living on farms.

“In a recent study of life in the country and small towns, one of the striking conditions brought out was the lack of sufficient social life. Particularly significant is the fact that this complaint came, not from outsiders—chance visitors or professional investigators; it was the direct testimony of the men and women living on the farms and in the small towns. The same statement came from people living in all parts of the Union—from New England districts, where there are many old village communities and farms comparatively close to one another, as well as from the more isolated Southern plantations and Western ranches.”<sup>1</sup>

2. The cityward tendency. The “drift to the city” constitutes a fact in evidence of country social hunger. While we must remember that the fundamental forces or conditions which transfer populations from country to city are of an economic nature, yet there is a large conscious element in the shape of desires and cravings after the pleasures and satisfactions which are supposed to arise from the social solidarity and associational opportunities offered in urban aggregations.

3. Social and cultural dearth. A meeting in the corn-belt was called to discuss the condition of country life of the region. “The common testimony was that there was nothing wrong with the region. The farmers were prosperous, owned automobiles and good turnouts, had money in the bank and were bank directors; land was considered a good investment; farmers were able to move to town at fifty years of age.”

<sup>1</sup> “Neighbourhood Entertainments,” Stern, p. ix.

Being asked why they desired to move to town, the answer was, "to secure good school facilities, to escape bad roads and isolation, to have church privileges and to be able to enjoy social advantages. In other words, the country life of the region was successful only on its business side, and a satisfying rural society had not developed. The town was a centre of interest. The country was not sufficient unto itself as a permanent place of abode."<sup>2</sup>

From replies to questionnaires sent to college students in the East and in the West is found corroborative evidences of the statement that country life is considered barren by those who are turning from it to fit themselves for another sphere.

A comparative survey or exhibit of the social possibilities and resources of a country and a city district would further the opinion. It would be discovered that the rural district is deficient in buildings and institutions which are the means of promoting social intercourse; and that separation of families from each other and the difficulties encountered in getting together are of a nature to prevent frequent assemblies.

The difficulties of rural assemblage is illustrated by an incident which occurred in a northern region. A new school building was to be dedicated. Three attempts were made. Local circumstances cancelled that in October, a blizzard, that in February, and a furious wind, rain, and hail storm nearly spoiled the final attempt in May. Only a few farmers could get in to the meeting. When the programme was over people were heard to exclaim, "Thank goodness, it is over at last!" That community will probably not undertake another such event for years.

4. Source of rural social backwardness. There is no scientific foundation for the inclination to regard the farmer as a different sort of being from the urbanite. If, as we have seen, the primitive man is essentially like civilised man

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, "The Training of Farmers," pp. 15-16.

in mental structure, it is beyond belief that farmers should be fundamentally dissimilar to men of other occupations and conditions of life in that respect. Ethnologists explain the apparent difference in the abilities of the former by the dissimilarities in their cultural conditions. In like manner we must believe that rural conditions stamp upon the agriculturist one characteristic impress, while those of the city imprint upon the city dweller another.

There is a social heredity in rural life which helps explain his social aloofness and backwardness. Every occupation has certain modes of reaction which are characteristic of its votaries. A trade group has certain terms, phrases, ideas about the trade and about its technical processes and instruments which are its peculiar possession. Its members have a stock of these items on hand which they pass down from generation to generation. If the group lives apart from other groups it is also likely to develop certain beliefs, traditions, customs, ways of regarding life and nature, and views about social matters which are somewhat peculiar to itself. The conditions imposed upon it and under which it lives account for these characteristics.

In like manner the aloofness of the farmer from other occupational groups and from other farmers predisposes him to depend on himself for passing the time, and to an absence of a strong social hunger. Moreover the absence of meeting places and of associational helps in the way of organisations places a premium on his dependence on self and family for enjoyment and entertainment.

**Desirability of Associational Life.**—We might assume, without discussion, that in the country associational life is highly desirable. The infrequent unsocial individual, and the intellectually self-centred and independent person, the product of years of cultivation and education, are about the only ones who might dispute it.

Associational life which satisfies the craving for the pres-



ence of others and of intercourse with them is useful to the individual and to the community.

First, it is desirable in itself. It quenches a social thirst and hunger which are as genuine and at times almost as imperative as physical thirst and hunger. As water and food not only satisfy the physical craving but build up the physical organism and replenish its vitality, so friendly intercourse furnishes a delight and satisfaction which are hardly surpassed by other satisfactions. In doing so they are creative of personality and of a larger and more wholesome life. Civilisation consists in increased wants and their satisfaction. It is in essence an expansion of the fundamental want of mere existence by differentiating that want and multiplying it as other wants.

Second, it is desirable in that it serves as a means of securing other ends.

(a) By means of association coöperative activities are promoted. A coming together for purposes of planning, discussion, and organisation is found to be quite necessary. The greatest industrial and commercial organisations of our time are promoted by a meeting together of interested parties for advice and formulation. Lesser associations and organisations best exist and prosper where people meet from time to time to talk things over. They generate the initiative and personal interest as well as the understanding which nourish and promote them.

(b) By means of associational intercourse the cultural process is expanded and intensified. Contact between peoples has always been found necessary to acculturation. Provincialism is broken down by migration and social mixture. Prejudices are dissipated. Ideas are multiplied and made to do service for many as against the few. What contact is between peoples intermingling is between individuals of a neighbourhood. Suggestions take root and grow. Better ways of thinking and acting come to light. The brighter

minds lead and educate the more backward. Something of the elevation of larger views becomes the heritage of all.

“When a district ceases to be a mere collection of householders and rises to the dignity of a community with common interests and common aspirations, it becomes alive; and the ‘monotony’ of country life becomes largely a thing of the past. One achievement fosters another, and unexpected potentialities are awaked. We need the stimulation of our kind for our own better development. There is a species of provincialism and a lack of varied interest in city as well as in country life; but it lies with the community in either place to determine whether such conditions shall remain.”<sup>3</sup>

(c) Association promotes recreation. Recreation is, as its name denotes, a renewal of life. Isolated persons have a tendency to grow old young and to lose their youthful sporting tendencies. So long as people can play at something, or can feel a freshness and virility return by means of certain activities, they remain youthful and vital. Rural life stands in need of recreation. It needs to learn how to play, how to keep playing for the sake of play, how to get rid of loneliness and weariness by games and amusements. The annual circus at the county seat, the yearly fair, the funeral, and the occasional church service are not enough. The weekly occasion is in demand where the play instincts may be set at work to orderly riot and where fun and mirth may abound.

Especially for country children organised play is needed. The playground movement has had an immense growth in the cities during the past few years. It means organised and directed play activities. Let us notice the deep nature and demand which exists for play.

Historically, play of the associated sort is older than humanity. Animals play. The young members of a given kind engage in movements in their play together which an-

<sup>3</sup> Stern, “Neighbourhood Entertainments,” p. 26.

ticipate activities of later life. They are, therefore, both imitations of the actual life movements of the older animals and a preparation for engaging in those life operations later on.

The physical effects of play are marked. It is almost a necessity to growth. Especially a symmetrical development of the body is secured by games which put the various parts into use. It is said that the Jews of East End London are three inches shorter than the wealthy members of the race of that city. Much of this difference is thought to be due to an absence of opportunity to play and to engage in games on the part of the poor. In similar manner the slum population of Glasgow is four inches shorter than the Scotch of country regions.

Mentally, organised play is valuable. The power of imitation is promoted. The quality of alertness to what is taking place and of being ready to anticipate it is developed. Foresight is thus cultivated, as also by planning to overcome the other contestants. A comprehension of plans and minutiae of games, in order to play them well, enlarges the understanding and teaches the nature of organisation. A premium is placed on initiative and the leader is trained for future activities. The social worth of associated and directed play is paramount. Games place a premium on organisation and their value for attaining the accomplishment of purposes is seen. They teach coöperation. There is no success for the players' team without all its members subordinate themselves to the group and work together. The value of the group and a regard for it is thus inculcated. Altruism is promoted and selfishness curbed. Zeal, enthusiasm, and devotion to a cause is engendered. Love of association and community spirit are other no less worthy qualities which are attained by means of games.

The country child is as much in need of having most of these qualities developed as the city child. He has the same

need of a symmetrical growth of body. He is probably as strong, or stronger, and heavier than his colleague of the city; but he lacks the poise and proportionate development which the latter possesses. An investigation was made of the height, weight, and head circumference of country and city boys and girls of North Dakota. Children of the age of 12 in rural and city schools were measured. The data for the two groups are presented in the accompanying table (Table 21). The number measured in each case is small and the results are therefore not decisive. But they are interesting and indicate the country child is larger than the city child.

TABLE XXI

## PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RURAL AND CITY CHILDREN

RURAL				
Sex, Age	Number	Height	Weight	Head Circumference
Male, 12 .....	19	58.9	86.1 lbs.	21.34
Female, 12 .....	11	57.11	82.2 lbs.	21.34
Average .....	30	58.25	84.6 lbs.	21.34
CITY				
Sex, Age	Number	Height	Weight	Head Circumference
Male, 12 .....	20	56.5	80.7 lbs.	21.27 in.
Female, 12 .....	20	57.77	80.47 lbs.	20.97 in.
Average .....	40	56.9	80.58 lbs.	21.12 in.

It is stated that it was found by Civil War and Spanish War officers that city bred troops were quicker to follow orders and were able to endure more hardships than country men. Recent tests in gymnastics of this country tend to indicate just the opposite as to endurance. "While in the

sprints, the inability of the country boys to get a quick start acts as a serious handicap, in the longer races, they maintain a more regular pace and manifest greater endurance than city boys, even when there is a demand made upon the will to key up the muscles to a last supreme effort.”<sup>4</sup>

Country boys lack coöperative ability and power to co-ordinate the organs of their body as compared with city boys. Mr. Myron T. Scudder found not only that country boys “did not know how to play, but that when they did try their physical development was neither as high nor as even as that shown by the boys in the Public School Athletic League of New York City.”<sup>5</sup>

Farm labour does not take the place of organised play. Indeed, there is reason to think that child labour on the farm is in many cases open to extreme severity and abuse. Boys are often put at tasks far beyond their age and powers, and kept at work far beyond the ten-hour period of adult industrial labour. Compulsory education laws do not always protect the child. A North Dakota County Superintendent instructing a body of rural school directors advised them that the state school law might be violated in his county. It is understood that similar leniency exists in other states.

The social needs of the country child for organised play are paramount. He craves this form of recreation. His future social nature and coöperative ability are largely dependent on it for their development. He has a right to this recreational pleasure, and stern justice and the responsibilities which later he is to carry demand that it shall be extended to him.

(d) Associational life is desirable to bring about a social solidarity. A community exists only where common interests are recognised and acted on. We speak of a neighbour-

<sup>4</sup> Guy D. Gold, “The Psychology of the Country Boy,” *Rural Manhood*, April, 1911, p. 108.

<sup>5</sup> Stern, Chap. 1, and Gold, *op. cit.*, p. 107.

hood and probably mean by it that in a given region people live on farms which lie side by side. A neighbourhood is more than that. It is a community or it is nothing at all. If people do not neighbour with each other, if they do not recognise their mutual interests and draw together along those lines, there is no neighbourhood and no society.

/ Social solidarity is good as a means and it is good as an end. As an end it enlarges personality. Our persons are as expansive as the interests they circumscribe. Personality is built up by absorbing the ideas, sympathies, interests, points of view, habits of reaction, methods of adjustment, etc., of our fellow men. So the child's person grows. As we grow older we continue the process. To cease to drink in and give out is to stop the development of our personalities. Hence the enrichment of the personalities of any given region is dependent on a frequent and close give and take between the individuals of the district. Family life is a means to this end. Large families in the country might be justified to secure this end. But the development of the associational life of a considerable number of families is a further and necessary means to secure richer and larger results.

As a means, social solidarity is a factor. The historic devices which have been used to generate it is a recognition of its value. Among these in primitive times was the idea of blood relationship, and in more developed times patriotism. The ties of blood held groups together when humanity was in its childhood. It was intensified and encouraged by ideas of tradition and religious sanction. A premium was placed on preferring the individual of a blood group rather than one of a foreign group. Outside groups were anathematised, ridiculed, hated, destroyed wherever possible. The group kept its identity, promoted its life, and evolved by this device.

Patriotism serves this purpose to-day. Nations are considered strong, other things being equal, in proportion to their patriotism. The Japanese surprised the occidental

world by their exhibition of absolute devotion to their country's cause in the Russo-Japanese War. No danger was too great or death too dreadful for Japanese troops to meet. We promote patriotism by flags, songs, exercises, appeals, boasts, because it secures a unity of spirit and a devotion which makes the nation strong and inviolable. What blood-ties were to primitive men and patriotism to modern states local pride and devotion must be to country neighbourhoods. They will be strong, vigorous, alert, able to survive and to develop by their means.

**Direction Rural Socialisation Should Take.**— A unanimity of opinion does not exist, among students of rural matters, as to what direction the socialisation of the country should take. Shall it follow the lines developed in the city or build its own? Shall it be mere imitation of city ways, a wholesale borrowing of organisations, or will it be best to adopt and reconstruct those factors for its own peculiar conditions? Can the country be citified, and is it best it should be, or must it build up a real life of its own which shall not be a pale copy of life that is built on different foundations?

It will be worth while to consider the suggestions which have been made by men who have a knowledge of rural matters.

First, some would have the farmers gathered together in small villages after the manner of European agricultural life. Says President Kenyon L. Butterfield of this opinion:

“ This remedy, however, is of doubtful value. In the first place, the scheme is not immediately practicable. About three and one-half billions of dollars are now invested in farm buildings, and it will require some motive more powerful than that inspired by academic logic to transfer, even gradually, this investment to village groups. Moreover, it is possible to dispute the desirability of the remedy. The farm village at best must be a mere hamlet. It can secure for the farmer very few of the urban advantages he may

want, except that of permitting closer daily intercourse between families. And it is questionable if the petty society of such a village can compensate for the freedom and purity of rural family life now existing. It may even be asserted with some degree of positiveness that the small village, on the moral and intellectual sides, is distinctly inferior to the isolated farms."

Second, better means of communication are recommended to secure needed rural social conditions.

"At the present time rural isolation in America is being overcome by the development of better means of communication among farmers. So successful are these means of communication proving that we cannot avoid the conclusion that herein lies the remedy. Improved wagon roads, the rural free mail delivery, the farm telephone, trolley lines through country districts are bringing about a positive revolution in country living. They are curing the evils of isolation, without in the slightest degree robbing the farm of its manifest advantages for family life. The farmers are being welded into a more compact society," given greater alertness of mind, and the basis is being laid for larger social activities. "The problem now is to extend these advantages to every rural community — in itself a task of huge proportions. If this can be done and isolation can be reduced to a minimum, the solution of all other rural social problems will become vastly easier." <sup>6</sup>

Roosevelt attributed rural exodus to "loneliness and lack of mental companionship," and hoped that free delivery, telephone, bicycle, trolley, etc., would do much toward "lessening the isolation of farm life and making it brighter and more attractive." Many think just the reverse will occur. They will make the city more accessible and spread information about it and its seductive attractions which may increase the urban immigration. Anyway the city will develop more

<sup>6</sup> Butterfield, same, pp. 20-22.



rapidly in material advantages than the country and widen the breach, rather than be overtaken by the country through its urbanisation.

▲ Still others take a rather pessimistic view of the effects of rapid and easy communication which will put the country in close touch with urban centres. The chance and hazard-taking habit is one of the dangers of mankind. "Already those miraculous agencies in the hands of cities, that destroy alike space and time, are visibly instilling the virus of their many evil customs and methods into the various industries diffused throughout the nation, hitherto exempt from them. Even now, the entire rural element of the country is being closely and intimately linked to the chance-taking centres of the nation. It is, therefore, even at the present time, no unusual circumstance for the farmer to leave his plough in the furrow, and with it his honest labour, and repair to the well-installed telephone in his own home, to enjoy the thrill of a venture in the wheat pit of Chicago or the stock-market of New York."

The result will be an "incongruous medley of honest creative effort and speculative venture. The daily routine of the farmer's life may thus ultimately become a round of rapid alternations between the ticker and the plough."

Realisation of the danger may be obtained by remembering that the farmers are more intimately connected with chance-taking centres than were their forefathers who lived in the cities where the dangerous foci are centred.<sup>7</sup>

Third, very effective reasons are given why the country should build its own institutions and civilisation. "The country must develop its own ideals and self-respect. My city friends, for example, are proposing ways whereby country people may have entertainment, but they make the fundamental error of fashioning their schemes on city ways. The real countryman does not think of theatres and recitals and

<sup>7</sup> Bookwalter, "Rural versus Urban," pp. 279-81.

receptions and functions in the way that the city man does, and it is not at all necessary that he should. On the contrary, it is very important that he should not. The country-man needs more social life, but his entertainment and contentment must come largely out of his occupation and his contact with nature, not from mere extraneous attractions.”<sup>8</sup>

“I will illustrate this by speaking of the country movement to revive sports and games. More games and recreation are needed in the country as much as in the city. In fact, there may be greater need of them in the country than elsewhere. The tendency seems to be just now, however, to introduce old folk-games. We must remember that folk games such as we are likely to introduce have been developed in other countries and in other times. They represent the life of other peoples. To a great extent they are love-making games. They are not adapted in most cases to our climate. To introduce them is surely to bring in another exotic factor and to develop a species of theatricals.”<sup>9</sup>

Country life cannot be effectively improved by grafting on city ways. It cannot hope to rival the advantages of the cities. Cheap and garish entertainments, electric lights, advertisements affording nightly displays of fireworks, public spectacles and meets of great magnitude, institutional churches, social settlements, play-grounds and social centres as separate institutions can not be expected to thrive in rural regions and meet their peculiar necessities.

“In a properly organised rural neighbourhood could be developed that higher kind of attraction which is suggested by the very word neighbourhood. . . . When people are really interested in each other — and this interest comes of habitually working together — the smallest personal traits or events affecting one are of interest to all. The simplest piece of amateur acting or singing, done in the village hall by one

<sup>8</sup> L. H. Bailey, “The State and the Farmer,” pp. 64-65.

<sup>9</sup> Bailey, “The Training of the Farmer,” pp. 8-9.

of the villagers, will arouse more enthusiasm among his friends and neighbours than can be excited by the most consummate performance of a professional in a great theatre, where no one in the audience knows or cares for the performer."

Fourth, the country stands in need of developing its own permanent leadership. Elsewhere the evidence relative to this need is given. In earlier chapters mention has been made of it. The dependence of farmers on other classes for political direction and initiative has been shown. Statesmanship of a large sort comes from non-rural classes. Especially home ability must be grown which shall understand rural conditions and communities as such. It must appreciate the deepest social necessities and demands and be constructive in its attempt to devise ways to satisfy those conditions.

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## CHAPTER XIV

### RURAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT CLUBS

In previous connections, especially in the last chapter, we have seen the desirability and necessity of collective action in rural communities. In order that individuals may associate and operate collectively agencies are requisite. Organisations are to society what bony framework and muscles are to the cell-organisms which make up the human body. They make possible united effort on which much of the individual's happiness depends. In the country especially the individual can accomplish little of a social nature through individual undertakings. He is, therefore, all the more dependent on social contrivances to secure collective results.

It is well, however, to remember that organisations are but the means through which human welfare is to be attained. They are not ends and the mistake should never be made of establishing them just for the sake of having the equipment which some other community possesses. The country does not need institutionalisation in this sense. Unless a demand exists it is better without institutions.

"Through the Local Improvement Association, the community can work effectively for better conditions—improved roads, better schools, more efficient local government; for greater opportunities for culture, through local libraries, lectures and music. Clubs for boys and girls supply a need in education not satisfied by the home or the school, stimulating, as they do, the child's self-reliance, and a capacity to govern, as well as teaching him to submit in a community

of his peers — qualities not developed under the restraint of the home or the school.”

They also provide older boys and girls with opportunities for study and improvement.

“The need of mutual help is, perhaps, greatest among the women in the community. While the women cling to the narrow confines of the kitchen and the home circle, the other members of the family are developing new interests, and are leaving her behind and mentally alone. If she can keep abreast of the world and its interests, lighten the drudgery of the household by adopting improved methods, learn what may contribute to the better upbringing of children, the gain is not only to the woman but to the family as a whole. In the grind of routine household duties, there is need of the mutual encouragement that comes from common effort in one direction, and of stated times when the women of the community can come together for serious conference or for pleasure. Here is the field of service of the properly organised woman’s club.”<sup>1</sup>

**1. The Local Improvement Association** is a means of getting things done for the community which individuals are not likely to undertake.

The Association may undertake the clearing of weeds from streets and roads, and from open fields to prevent seeding; the removal of rubbish from public places; improvement of schoolhouses, churches, and their grounds; the planting of trees in public grounds and along roads; drainage and sanitation of pestilential places; and whatever is in demand. Securing the participation of children in activities and programmes is important. It arouses their interest in the country and secures the translation of family interest into action.

Special days and occasions may be taken advantage of with good results. Arbor Day affords such an opportunity. Children may well be instructed in advance in school or in a

<sup>1</sup> Stern, “Neighbourhood Entertainments,” pp. ix-xii.

section of the Association in all matters relative to the transplanting of trees and bushes. Thorough preparation and organisation will make the day a successful one and make every one feel that he has contributed something.

Another opportunity is offered by local history. A committee of the Association may be formed on "History and Historic Landmarks." Such activities cultivate the spirit which talks of "our town," "our township," "our district." It breeds local patriotism and gives the community an individuality.

The Association may promote Old Home Week for the purpose of bringing back the old settlers. It may also initiate and organise a lecture course association which would bring outside talent to contribute new ideas, features, and zest to community life.<sup>2</sup>

• **2. Boys' Clubs.**—Boys' clubs take advantage of the "ganging" age of boys, satisfy their craving to belong to something, and interest the outside home circle in their affairs. They train them to get along with their fellows, to show consideration, and to exercise self-control. Through such organisations leadership is developed. Their negative value is to keep the youngsters out of mischief.

Boys' clubs have a wide range and must be adapted to meet local needs. City boys need to be kept out of mischief, country boys need companionship and training in association. The club must have a definite motive, whether social or studious. The country boy is self-reliant, but needs to learn how to express himself among his fellows, to sink the consciousness of self, to work with others. The club should aim to realise those ends.

There are certain requisites for a country boys' club. The members should be of the same age so as to have a similar grade of knowledge and interests. There should be a variety of occupations in the club to meet various tastes. They

<sup>2</sup> Stern, "Neighbourhood Entertainments," Chap. 1.

may consist of debates, essays, and readings, to be alternated with indoor athletics, outdoor games, recitations, simple plays and entertainments. A few special events like public entertainments, debates with rival clubs, and competitive games, give the members something to look forward to and increase their interest as well as that of friends. Jealousy is allayed by rotation in office. A regular place of meeting is advisable, although meetings may be held at members' homes in turn. The decoration and improvement of a permanent club room adds interest. Weekly meetings in winter, if possible, is advised, with one formal meeting a year. Older boys manage their own club but should have an adviser. Boys under fourteen elect their officers but should be under the guidance of a wise "youthful" leader who is capable of eliciting hero worship. The athletic, local history, natural history, and agricultural clubs, are forms of associations which have proved successful among boys.

**3. Girls' Clubs.**—It seems wise to separate girls and boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen into different organisations. Their interests diverge then. Boys are active and athletic. Girls enjoy quiet work or reading.? The attempt to find common ground results in boredom or silly sentimentality which is worse. Girls have the same desire as boys for companionship, to worship idols, and to "belong to something."

If an athletic club for girls is organised they should be carefully guarded against overstrain. Clubs in local and natural history are suitable to them. Sewing and cooking classes taught by competent women of the neighbourhood or others are desirable.

**4. Young People's Clubs.**—Older boys and girls have the same desire for companionship as younger, and secure greater gains from clubs. The sexes work together well after the age of seventeen or eighteen. Their interests are more in common. The programmes may be made systematic and may be conducted by the members, but older and wiser lead-

ers are helpful. Literary studies have been found to give satisfaction and profit. Shakesperean studies opened up ambitions to excel in rendition of parts. Open readings may be given after some excellence has been attained. These become social events to the young people of the neighbourhood. After each session time is devoted to social intercourse. Amateur theatricals may be undertaken under proper direction. They are a source of pleasure and a means of culture. Participation improves the memory, speaking ability, ease of carriage, appearance in public, poise and self-control. The study of parts between times helps to hold the young people together.

It is unfortunate that a literature which touches the interests of farm life closely does not exist. Poems, novels, serious works of various forms, are quite largely urbanised or industrialised. Young people's and other rural literary and study clubs would have a more permanent foundation did the subject matter pertain more intimately to the life conditions of the country.

**5. Women's Clubs.**—"A survey of the work of women's clubs throughout the country discloses the fact that in most instances, these clubs, far from leading women into greater worldliness and away from their households and children, are useful in aiding the mothers to become better home-keepers. In other words, these clubs help the modern home to keep pace with modern school and business life. Woman has always been considered the great social factor, consequently it lies with her to institute whatever reform makes for better community life, provides openings for mental development or initiates harmless and satisfying forms of recreation.

"All forms of recreation and of work gain by being shared with others. The temptation to form the stay-at-home habit is great, more particularly to women who have the care of large families and live in isolated districts. They are apt to lose the desire for contact with the life of the community



and to fall slaves to a deadening routine into which it grows more and more difficult to break. To create a bond of friendly intercourse between such women, and a common meeting-ground where they may come together and spend an occasional afternoon, there to read the same books or to express their thoughts to one another, is the object of the club; and its effect is found to be the rousing of latent interests and broadening of both mind and sympathies."

The question of available subjects is a difficult one. What women are accomplishing in various fields should stir up interest. The work of literary women is most accessible. "Travels at Home" is another field. One class completed a round-the-world tour covering several years. Publishing firms issue inexpensive prints of famous places and hundreds of these are obtainable. George Eliot's "Romola" can be made vivid by views of Florence. Something interesting may be derived from a lively art club. Even more valuable and interesting is a household economics course. For this it is advisable to work under the leadership of some neighbouring institution which has experts in the subject. Bulletins of the United States Department of Agriculture on various foods may be obtained as aids. An outline course for such a club may prove valuable. The numbers attached to the following topics refer to Farmers' Bulletins.

1. Economising time and strength in the arrangement of the house and utensils, and in organising household work. (353, 270, 342.)

2. Most economical stoves and lighting devices, their care, etc.

3. Use of fireless cooker, arguments for and against.

4. Care of drains, and garbage disposal.

5. Removal of dust, proper ventilation, rugs, carpets, sweeping, dusting, etc.

6. Canning and preserving. (175, 203, 359.)

7. Principles of nutrition and nutritive value of food.

(34, 85, 93, 112, 121, 128, 142, 182, 244, 249, 256, 293, 332, 363, 391.)

8. School lunches.
9. Household decoration.
10. Best flowers to raise for interior and outside purposes.
11. Use of "parlour" and kitchen.
12. How to keep children at home and interested in farm work.
13. Food adulteration and sanitation in neighbouring states.
14. School and home sanitation, and flies.
15. Neighbourhood beautification and housekeeping.

Another useful series of topics could be arranged on matters of child-life and child-rearing. Refreshments are an important part of the club. It is a good way to get people drawn out over teacups and acquainted and may be regarded as the equivalent of men's "smokers." An efficient committee is necessary to arrange a programme and to see that expenses are kept down and emulation in display does not creep in to dismember the club.

A certain amount of coöperation between town and country clubs is desirable and the benefits are not all to the country woman. Information and vision will accrue to the members of both kinds of clubs. Joint meetings twice a year are found profitable. If the city club has quarters this might be used as rest quarters for country women. Daily visitation by city women establishes many valuable friendships. The rest room for women from the farms, who have to spend hours at a time waiting in stores, is very necessary because humane utility apart from any form of club. The women of Ottumwa, Iowa, maintain such a room in the town hall of that place. The library is the seat of the rest room at Storm Lake, Iowa.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The new county court-house at Wahpeton, North Dakota, contains a rest room for farm women and a room for farm men.

Farm women obtain the pleasures of association and much valuable information and discipline in the Grange, and in the woman's section of Farmers' Institutes. Further reference will be made to these topics in treating "farmers' organisations."

#### FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS

Various organisations in rural regions have sprung up which may be designated as farmers' organisations. These might be treated in several connections in this volume. Some of them are essentially business in purpose, others primarily educational, but all afford the "social" aspect to a greater or less degree. Only those which appear to be of a permanent nature will be considered.

**1. The Grange.**—It has been supposed that this historic association was passing away. From 1880 to 1890 the order lost heavily in the West and South, although it grew steadily in New England and the Middle States. Thirty states pay dues to the National Grange treasury, twenty-six states sent delegates to the National Grange in a recent year, and most of these states show substantial growth in Granges and membership. New York alone had 66,500 members in 1905 and four other states ranged from 28,000 to 49,000 in membership. The membership consists of men and women, and of young people over fourteen years of age, who may apply and by vote be accepted. Meetings are held weekly or fortnightly. Each regular meeting has first its business session, and then its "lecturer's hour" or literary session, usually with an intervening recess for social greetings, etc. The programmes are prepared by the lecturer, and consist of general discussions, essays, talks, debates, readings, recitations, and music; an attempt being made to suit the tastes and talents of all members, young and old. Many Granges have built and own their own halls, which are usually equipped with kitchen and dining-room, in addition to audience rooms; for periodical

"feasts" are as regular a feature of the association as are the initiations of new members. The social importance of the organisation is seen also in the fact that last year (1910) ten Grange halls were dedicated in the State of New York.

The declaration of purpose of the National Grange expresses the fundamental objects of the order. Briefly stated, they are coöperation among farmers to secure better homes, better manhood and womanhood, better agriculture in its various phases, the elimination of middlemen, economy and honesty in government, and the promotion of education. Large results have been secured in most of these directions. Coöperative purchasing direct from manufacturers and jobbing houses has taken place extensively; mutual fire insurance companies have been organised in several states, twenty-three such companies existing in New York alone with policies aggregating \$85,000,000; several governmental matters have been pushed through by the influence of the Grange, such as the regulation of railroad franchises, establishment of the Interstate Commerce Commission, tax reform in many states, some food and dairy product laws, establishment of rural free delivery, etc.

The distinctive achievements of the Grange in smaller community matters have been furnishing a social clearing house, promotion of family life, and raising the standard of morals. "It is a debating society, club, lecture course, parliamentary society, theatre, and circulating library." In fact, it lends itself to almost any function that will instruct, entertain, benefit, or assist its members financially, morally, intellectually, or socially." Woman stands on an equality with man in the order.

**2. Farmers' Institutes.**—The Farmers' Institute has been in existence during nearly sixty years, and like the Grange, has demonstrated its usefulness. As the institute is now conducted it is really a part of educational extension work. But it is also an organisation of the rural community for

promoting community and individual interests. Most of the work is done in gatherings of agricultural people and the organisation is a means of intercourse, forming acquaintances, and promoting a class-consciousness.

The Institutes were originally mixed gatherings of men and women, continuing for about two days of five sessions, with mixed programmes. More recently, however, woman's distinct sphere, function, and needs have come into recognition, and she has been allotted a separate section in many states. At the present time institutes for young people between the ages of 14 and 19 are being held.

In 1910 every state had institutes organised under the charge of responsible directors with a corps of over 1,000 teachers who were specialists. Besides regular and special institutes the movement embraces movable schools of agriculture, field demonstrations, and agricultural trains.

The typical institute session consists of about three topics. These may be treated by experts from agricultural institutions or departments, expert farmers from the outside, or local farmers with recognised ability. Demonstrations are frequent. Object lessons are regarded as essentials to drive the truth home. Social intermixture and farm talk abounds in intervals between sessions.

Women's sections and special institutes are devoted to home matters. Special lecturers and demonstrators lead and guide the discussions. The tendency is in the direction of placing much more emphasis on these schools for women.

Young people's institutes differ from boys' and girls' clubs as organised by the public schools in that they are officered by adults, and their instructors are capable specialists of the same qualifications as those who lecture before farmers' institutes for adults. Since children over 14 years old are deprived of advanced training in farming, the instruction is wholly vocational.

The states appropriate money to support all forms of in-

stitute work and they are either under state or county direction. The United States Government contributes to its promotion through experts, and the support of agricultural colleges, whose staffs are drawn on for directors, experts, lecturers, demonstrators, etc.

Institutes have not only informed but inspired farmers. They have aroused dormant communities, quickened life, made men think and discuss, given opportunity for self-development, encouraged the despondent, and lightened the burdens of many men and women by teaching better and easier methods of farming and housekeeping. They have popularised agricultural education and started multitudes to attend agricultural colleges. Reading-courses and correspondence-courses are growing factors in agricultural education; but they cannot take the place of the institute, whose power is in face-to-face discussion and personal contact.

**3. The American Society of Equity.**—The American Society of Equity of North America is a new order. It was incorporated under the laws of Indiana, December 24, 1902. Since then it has extended its membership into several states and has become influential in determining the prices of farmers' commodities. The objects as set forth in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation represent its motive and spirit.

The scope and nature of the order is economic, educational, scientific, protective, social, pacific, and promotive. It is a class-conscious movement based on democratic and coöperative principles. Its organisation is local, country, state, and national, with officers to carry out the policies adopted in each given unit. It is centralised to gain efficiency, but the various grades of the order possess large local autonomy and "the right of the initiative and referendum and imperative mandate shall not be denied the members of their respective unions" (Article IX, section 1 of the Constitution). "The members of this society are expected to extend fraternal care to one another in sickness, misfortune, or distress, and to

their families in bereavement" (Article XIV, section 1). Arbitration is recommended between members, partisan and sectarian discussions prohibited, coöperation heartily urged as the most efficient social means. (Article XIV, sections 2, 3, and 5.) The union label is used as a means of identification.

Arising and spreading as it has at a time when the spirit of organisation and coöperation is abroad, when they are coming to be looked upon as the best means of guarding the interests of the individuals of any class, and when farmers are showing unusual signs of rising to meet the demands for their class, the order of the American Society of Equity bids fair to become a large and permanent factor in promoting agricultural society.

**4. The Farmers' Union.**—What the Grange and Society of Equity is to the North the Farmers' Union is to the South. This organisation to help farmers was formed in the summer of 1902 by Newt Gresham in the State of Texas. The movement spread rapidly in the South. In 1906 there were Unions in every Southern state and in some of the North. At that time Texas led with 3,250 Unions, Oklahoma followed with 1,400, and Arkansas stood next with 1,356. The total number of Unions was 6,870, the membership was near 300,000, and new Unions were being chartered at the rate of twenty-five per day with a daily increase of 600 members. A membership of 3,000,000 was claimed in 1910.

The objects and aims of the Union are stated by the by-laws as follows: "(1) To discourage as much as possible the present mortgage and credit system. (2) To assist our members in buying and selling. (3) To labour for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of crop diversification and scientific agriculture. (4) To constantly strive to secure entire harmony and good will among all mankind, and brotherly love among ourselves. (5) To form a more adequate union with those in authority for a more rigid

and impartial enforcement of the law, that crime, vice, and immorality may be suppressed. (6) To garner the tears of the distressed, the blood of the martyrs, the laugh of innocent childhood, the sweat of honest labour, and the virtue of happy homes as the highest jewel known.

"This is in no sense a political party, and shall forever abstain from so much as a discussion of partyism. Yet we do not feel it is our right to place shackles upon the mind nor a padlock upon the lips of any one who may wish to discuss, for educational purposes, the science of government, because upon this great rock all important structures rest for either mental, moral, social, or financial development."

The unions in union states have worked for public warehouses for cotton, and for the lowering of freight rates. The Union has coöperated with Labour Unions, and members of both organisations are known as "union men." In 1910 the Farmers' Union, which met at St. Louis, adopted a resolution favourable to Mr. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labour, and other labour leaders. It pledges that efforts shall be made to preserve their common "rights and liberties," to give preference to the products of labour which is organised, and that its officers shall confer and co-operate with those of labour for legislative and political amelioration.

**5. Farmers' Clubs.**—City people have their clubs. Merchants, teachers, lawyers, doctors, preachers form special organisations. The Commercial Club is a kind of home for city men in general who are members, and at certain times the wives of members are invited in. Farmers seem about to follow the example set them. They are establishing Farmers' Clubs, which shall be to the farmers what the other clubs are to the other occupations. It is understood that when a man joins his family become members. He brings it with him. Lunches are brought and the entire day is spent. There is a programme both in the forenoon and afternoon in



which music, recitations, and readings appear, along with serious discussions of farm and home and educational topics by outside and local talent. The interval at noon is made a big event. Good dinners, visiting, discussions carried on in groups, make it the best part of the day.

#### LIBRARY

**1. Importance as a Disseminator.**—The term library is used to cover that organisation by means of which society is supplying its members with reading matter. It is one of the important institutions which is used for the promotion of rural life. The dynamic influence of books and periodicals when put into circulation in a community is enormous. Modern experimental psychology has demonstrated that ideas are dynamic. Suggestions and mental images tend to get themselves worked out and realised in action by their direct and immediate influence on the bodily motor system. There are scientific ideas enough, potential, piled up in the libraries of the land, to move society ahead a generation if they could be made actual and living in the minds of men and women of to-day. One of the greatest problems in securing social progress is that of putting scientific information into common use. In our chapters on the improvement of the business of farming, and the improvement of the home and home utilities, we were in the presence of facts which showed the enormous gains rural communities might secure if only the people living in the country could really know the facts and their significance. The library offers one of the available means of putting facts and ideas about agricultural conditions into the minds of the individuals who will live them into actualisation.

While the dissemination of scientific knowledge generally is the greatest, entertainment and satisfaction from reading "light literature" is an important object of libraries. To accomplish this object reading must be made a part of edu-

cation. The reading habit must be established. School and other agencies should coöperate to secure this in youth. In maturity it will enliven the mind and bring a yearly reward.

**2. Agencies of Dissemination.**— It is somewhat immaterial where the collection of books, pamphlets, and papers which constitutes any given library is housed, just so that it is convenient and usable. If a neighbourhood can afford a separate library building, with various rooms for clubs, organisations, and social centre functions it is a great advantage. Such equipment can be hoped for as yet only in the larger centres. In small centres and in open country districts the collection may find a home in the school building, the church, the country store, or even a neighbour's residence. The method and means of securing the collection is the important thing.

The agencies of dissemination in rural districts are: (1) rural school libraries, (2) young people's reading circles, and (3) travelling libraries.

Permissive laws exist in many states providing for rural school libraries through taxation. Others make state aid conditional on raising a certain amount by private subscription. Compulsory laws are necessary to stimulate most communities to establish these libraries. The Nebraska law requires that 10 cents per child of school age be raised and invested in books other than text-books. Communities having free public libraries to which support to the extent of \$300 or over is given are exempted. Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and some other states have similar laws. They have greatly stimulated library extension.

Young People's Reading Circles have proved useful agencies. A board of directors guides in the selection of books. They are of a wholesome nature, adapted to the different ages, covering a wide range of literature, history, and adventure. The purchase money may be supplied from public funds or private subscription.

The Travelling Library has for its objects furnishing good literature to the public, strengthening small libraries, and the creation of new ones. All classes and communities may receive books. They are neatly boxed and sent out to all sorts of organisations seeking self-improvement, such as women's clubs, Granges, alliances, and institutes, workingmen's clubs, Sunday school classes, and even penal and charitable institutions. In small communities where the library finds small support the regular instalment of books is found to be an important addition. The advantage is even more notable in the case of a small rural school library. The travelling library often acts as a stimulus to the community to secure the establishment of a library. Put good reading into a neighbourhood and it whets the appetite for more.

Besides books some State Library Commissions send out other educational material. New York dispenses travelling art exhibits consisting of 1,586 large pictures of "the finest subjects and the best edition"; over 21,000 mounted photographs to be hung on the walls of the school for six months at a time with proper labels and notes; and even better, 24,458 lantern slides, together with lanterns, screens, and attachments for oil, oxyhydrogen, acetylene, or electric light. It also sends out "house libraries" of ten volumes each of which any home may secure for three months for a fee of one dollar.

Van Wert county, Ohio, has established a publicly supported county library system. It consists of a central library, fifteen branch stations which receive 100 new books every three months, and school collections in 90 out of 115 rural schools of the county. During the past year this system circulated three volumes per capita of its 29,119 people.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Rural Manhood*, III, 227-9.

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## CHAPTER XV

### RURAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT (CONTINUED)—THE CHURCH

**The Function of the Church.**—Because the church is an old historic institution which has served the interests of humanity in various ages so intimately and well it is difficult to form a fair and accurate notion of what it may and should do in any community. Our eyes are obscured by the glory of its past services and by the great part it played in certain periods. It is plain that the church does not occupy the prominence in the affairs of the world it once did. It cannot play the rôle it assumed as dictator to kings and emperors in the time of Innocent III. Its political influence is now rather incidental and a divorce between church and state, initiated by Rhode Island, put into effect first on a national scope by the United States, is being realised among European nations, bidding fair to become universal.

It is worth discussing what the place and function of the church is in the modern world. Theoretically and sociologically this may be determined, not however, with absolute unanimity of opinion. The personal bias and philosophy colour the findings of various thinkers and make the conclusions divergent. Some modern conditions, however, may be noted which would seem to mark out about what any given institution may and may not do. The situation relative to the church in society from sociological considerations may indicate what the church can not hope to do in the rural region.

The modern world works upon the principle of the division of labour to a greater extent than any previous age. On

the structural side social evolution has consisted in forming and establishing structures to take up the tasks which new interests and demands create. Continuous differentiation has multiplied organisations, each with its work to do. Functionally, social evolution has consisted in the differentiation of human wants, the creation of new interests, the multiplication of divisions of labour, the intensification of specialisation. Each social function has had its organisation to execute it. Each fundamental interest has had its primary institution consisting in turn of subsidiary, specialising organisations, through which both the central and the more incidental wants obtained realisation. Thus we have such primary institutions as the religious, the educational, the industrial, the political, and so on. Each one of these is broken up into differing functional activities, which seem essential to the execution of the primary function.

In the case of the educational organisation, the primary aim is training, preparation for society; imparting knowledge being the central idea. In order to convey information, there may have to be government, moralisation, communication, and other activities carried on in the educational system as means to the great end. In the political activities equitable regulation of property and personal relations in society is primary. To secure this purpose the organised state ensues, government in all its phases is established, political parties with their machinery for campaigning and securing control of the state develop. In the religious sphere worship in some phase has been the central function. It may have consisted of attempts at frightening, at pacification, or at communion with divinities or the deity. Incidentally subsidiary activities such as ecclesiastical government, education, charity, and various other activities were carried on.

Thus in all these cases there has been some primary function undertaken with developing subordinate functions as means of realising the dominant purpose. It would be a

sociological error to think the case may be reversed and that the subordinate function may be elevated to the position of the primary. If education turns aside to govern the state or to manufacture goods or to preach doctrine in a predominant manner, making the impartation of knowledge secondary, it usurps the function of other institutions and abdicates its own. If the church, which is the institution for realising the religious wants of men, undertakes to regulate the state, or to impart information of a scientific and vocational nature dominantly, dropping religious culturisation into a subordinate place, it forgets its historic and sociological division of labour and seeks to do the primary work of other specialised institutions.

The mistake is often made of assuming that because the church once carried on government or education it may do so again. This assumption forgets that social evolution has succeeded in creating new institutions to take over some of the work formerly carried on by other institutions. The impress of specialisation is now so firmly established that the new order cannot be reversed without a revolution. The educational system of modern society is so well established and developed, with its central aim of imparting useful and scientific knowledge in a systematic and thorough manner, that it is anachronistic and reactionary to propose that the church or any other institution may usurp this work. The rural school, the extension work of university and college, the institutes with their corps of experts, all supported by public funds, are in the field to stay and to become more firmly entrenched.

**Principles Regulative of what the Rural Church May Undertake.**—There are certain useful things which the church in the rural district may accomplish. First, it must not forget to carry on its primary function of teaching fundamental religion. If this is not the primary work of the church there is no other institution to take it up. It is not the business

of the state, the school, or the press. If religion is essential to the masses, then the church must see to it that the masses obtain it. This does not mean that a church must return to primitive methods, preach systematic theology, or engage in polemical discussions with other sects. Christianity has evolved in recent years. It has grown in ethical content and moral import. Religion is seen and interpreted in its social relationships. When this is done it is found to be uplifting and attractive. Breadth of vision, profundity of meaning, and genesis of new vigour are by this means secured for the average individual.

To secure the best results from religious teaching the Bible needs to be interpreted. The Bible is an evolutionary literature. In it may be seen the development of religion in the life of a single people from the stage of primitive clan and tribal superstitions and revolting practices, through intervening cleansing steps, to the highest monotheistic conceptions and ethical content. An ignorant preacher will place the abhorrent deeds of the primitive Hebrews on the same ethical plane with the elevated teachings of the great prophets and the sublime ideas of Jesus. He will condone the polygamous practices of David and Solomon, the reactionary ideas of Paul relative to woman, and place the Levitical code on a par with the Sermon on the Mount.

Modern men are repelled by such confusing and contradictory conceptions. It is neither reasonable nor inspirational. It ignores the teachings of science. But let a wise leader explain the Bible and the religious life of the Hebrews as a growth and light breaks in. The Bible becomes a fascinating piece of literature and history. Information of value is obtained in it as to social evolution and the evolution of religion. Jesus appears all the greater because he is the consummation of the development. His ethical teachings secure new meaning since he is seen to occupy the position of both religious and social reformer. It is needless to say that this



procedure calls for an advanced type of preacher in the rural churches.

Second, the country church can act as inspirer and leader in the larger and more significant advances now demanded in the country. In preceding chapters we have seen what many of these things are. The exposition of the attractions of contact with nature; the needs of improving business, agriculture, the home and the neighbourhood; the rights of labour on the farm; a better educational system; the beautification of home grounds and the country landscape; better roads; proper methods of caring for the poor and the defective classes; are some of the numerous topics of a larger nature which the country church may well consider.

It is not expected that the preacher will be able to act as expert authority on each and all of these subjects. But he should know the needs of country life so well, see the value which would ensue from a realisation of better things in these and other directions, and obtain such a perspective of the ideal community, that he will be able to give inspiration and direction to the movements. A leader who realises the need in a given direction will be able to agitate, suggest and organise until a movement is put on foot to meet it; even though he does not understand all the details which the realisation involves. A man may be perfectly competent to preach on the demands and results of the new agriculture, without being an expert farmer. The literature and information on the subject is so abounding that several addresses on various phases of the subject might well be given. The subject treated in a large way, and in view of its significance for production, for the nation, for building up the home, for educating the children, and for improving life in the neighbourhood would instruct even the expert farmer and encourage the average resident to take action.

A series of addresses on Sunday evenings might easily be made on each of the larger subjects denoted. Outside experts

and speakers could be obtained for portions of them. Able local farmers would be able to treat some of them. In fact, much of the leadership of such things must be expected of laymen and encouraged in them. Let the minister realise that his great function is that of director and promoter, enthusing and giving courage to his members and modestly pointing the way, and he will double his usefulness. Unfortunately, the average country clergyman has no equipment for this service. The reasons will become apparent when we consider the decadence of the country church.

Third, the church may serve the purpose of a social unifier and social centre or clearing house. It need not seek to assume the monopoly in these directions. Frequently other institutions have already taken the lead in this direction and are doing the work well. Even in such cases there is probably a large amount of supplemental service which may be rendered. But where such enterprises are not established the church should by all means either seek to carry on the activities needful or stimulate the establishment of such organisations as will do so.

That these functions are in demand in the country as well as in the city is obvious. We have already noted the necessity for socialisation and for a larger social life. The points made may be referred to. Social unification has not been treated specifically. The want of this is often apparent. Divisiveness, factionalism, neighbourhood feuds, sectarianism, stubborn prejudices are conditions which exist in multitudes of districts. A neighbourhood in the sense of a community existence or life is impossible where this situation prevails. Discord is substituted for concord. Common interest is lacking. Realisation of collective achievements is impossible. Hence the need of a rallying place and the maintenance of activities and interests which will obliterate the false barriers and merge the interests of the inhabitants in a common welfare movement.

The enterprising church may become such a rallying point. It may furnish a home for clubs for young and old, boys' scout movement, young people's societies, entertainments, dramatic and theatrical activities, moving picture shows. It may hold agricultural contests and fairs, father athletic sports and contests, house institutes, granges, and equity societies, become the patron saint of domestic science and child culture for the good of the home, and in fact become all things to all men. Such a church must appeal to men. It must satisfy their various wants — social, ethical, religious, cultural; for amusement, recreation, and sport. It must be larger than sectarianism, as catholic as human nature, and maintain the spirit and ideal of social service above that of individual salvation. Being these things it will be vital, vigorous, and win the loyal adherence of the community it serves.

**Decadence of the Rural Church.**— That the rural church as it exists to-day is unfitted to meet the demands of rural communities seems to be quite generally admitted by students of rural sociology. This might be expected of the rural church when the church generally is undergoing such wholesale criticism for failure to adapt itself to the problems of to-day. This general criticism must be largely just because so many eminent churchmen admit and express it. One or two typical opinions of the decadence and invalidity of the country church must stand as examples of a larger volume.

Rev. Warren H. Wilson, Superintendent of the Department of Church and Country Life of the Presbyterian Church, writes:

“For more than a year it has been my duty to assemble the ministers and officers of country churches at central points throughout all the older states of the Union — excepting certain southern states — and to discuss with them the conditions prevailing among the churches. Generally, almost universally, these ministers and officers agree in stating that the country church is losing its hold. They speak for the

Protestant denominations which have a trained and specialised ministry.”<sup>1</sup>

Professor Bailey gives this as his opinion:

“In many places the rural church has practically died out. In other places it is very weak. Many have felt that the usefulness of the country church is passing, . . . is not accomplishing what it might for rural communities. This is not due to lack of devoted service on the part of the country pastor, but to a need of re-direction in the institution. Concerned in too many cases with technical religion, formal piety, small and empty social duties, the country church does not appeal strongly to men with rich red blood in their veins. The hardness of the dogma is the measure of sterility. The trouble is that the rural church has no organic connection with the life of the community, in this regard being worse off than the school.”<sup>2</sup>

The causes of this decadence are important as indicating the direction improvements must take. They may be summarised as follows:

1. The existence of a divided religious ministry. This means sectarianism in church work.

“The country church has been a mere means for distributing the hope of personal salvation. For this purpose it did not need to be, in the judgment of former generations, a socially effective organisation. Any small group of believers has been at liberty to build a meeting-house and maintain an organisation. National denominations have been all too willing to support these competing congregations in the country community. We have, therefore, in almost all the older states too many country churches. . . . We recently discovered in Pennsylvania a farming region in which within a radius of four miles from a given point there are twenty-four country

<sup>1</sup> *American Journal of Sociology*, March, 1911, p. 688.

<sup>2</sup> L. H. Bailey, “The Training of Farmers,” p. 77; and “The State and the Farmer,” p. 132.

churches; within a three-mile radius from a point half a mile farther on there are sixteen of these country churches. Of course this is an impossible social situation. Whatever be its doctrinal value, it is a form of social inefficiency.”<sup>3</sup>

In an Illinois village of 200 inhabitants, a few years since, there were fourteen churches in the place. It was impossible to support these churches either as to membership or finances. Indifference resulted from so many faiths.

2. A lack of adaptation to modern conditions, to scientific intelligence, and particularly to agricultural needs. It needs spiritualising and socialising.

“It should express and encourage the natural inspiration that may be made to flow from the common affairs and practices of any agricultural community. . . . The country saloon is open continually. The country church ought also to be open continually, or at least it ought to have a continual personal contact with its people; and this contact must be much more than through customary religious work.”<sup>4</sup>

It fails to reach and satisfy the social needs of modern agricultural communities in competition with near-by urban groups. With the growing indifference to polemics, to argumentative discourses in support of the denominational or sectarian position as to the exact mode of baptism, the order of conversion, regeneration, and justification, the procession of the triune person, the existence of a devil and eternal real fire for sinners, preachers have been trying to adjust themselves to their congregations. Their doctrines have become vague, indefinite, and unsatisfactory on certain essential doctrinal points. They have engaged in diluted abstractions instead or waded into a sea of sociological problems for which they have had no training. Whether the preacher treated doctrinal differences, dealt in vague abstractions, or gave allopathic doses of undigested sociological information, his efforts were alike unsatisfactory.

<sup>3</sup> Wilson, *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> Bailey, *op. cit.*, pp. 77 and 133.

3. The attraction of the churches in near-by cities and villages has been a factor in rural church decline. Larger and more finely furnished buildings, a choir and better music, a higher salaried and superior preacher, the dress and manners of the urban populace, are some of the attractions which have taken the young people away from the neighbourhood meeting-house.

4. There has been a growing inferiority of country pastors. Salaries are low in the country. Life is more comfortable in the cities. There are more privileges and opportunities. Hence the abler and more highly educated men are drafted off to city churches, leaving men with undeveloped talents and narrow, traditional views to rural churches.

5. The great social and economic changes of the age have affected country churches. The telephone and the rural mail have introduced rural inhabitants to social opportunities, broken into the isolation, and deprived the meeting-house of its prestige of affording the only chance for adult intercourse. Better roads, improved vehicles, trolley lines, and automobiles have made the near-by and even somewhat distant cities accessible. Railroads which have been spread like a net work over the land have caused villages and cities to spring up every few miles. The open-country church has failed to sustain itself in competition with the larger attractions of these places. Here farmers resort at the age of retirement, children attend school and form social attachments, and the superior churches have drawing power.

Population has become migratory in rural regions, a study of interstate migrations is sufficient to attest this. Shifting land values by reason of the opening up of new lands, the development of cities, mines, forests, and railways have caused a great ebb and flow in population which has done much to unsettle church membership and sap the support of the rural church. The tenant or renter system has developed in many states. It is difficult for the country church to find support

and a lay leadership in the face of inhabitants who feel no responsibility for keeping up the social and moral life of the community.

**Methods of Improving the Churches.**— A consideration of the causes of arrested development or decadence of the country church has furnished the suggestions for its improvement. The statement of causes has been a negative statement of methods of betterment. Together with the statement of the functions of the country church, they form an approximate formulation for advance. A brief positive synthetic presentation will make the idea of what is needed more vivid.

1. The country church must be given a modern leader in the person of its preacher. Mr. Wilson, who holds a position of authoritative expert in rural church matters writes:

“ Behind the country churches stand the theological seminaries; professional schools, founded and established for the training of ministers; originally country ministers. At the present time these schools, with almost no exception are rendering an entirely inadequate service. More than inadequate: it is misplaced and it has the effect of misdirection. For three years the student of the ministry is detained away from the study which he should pursue and for a good part of that time he is diligently trained in studies that he ought never to follow. The country community, therefore, is a field, in the case of most ministers, for original investigation — untrained, amateur, and unsystematic investigation — in which he has no help from those appointed to be his helpers and his leaders. . . . My thesis then is a plea for economic and social training of rural leaders; especially for country ministers. If this work is not done by the seminaries it should be undertaken by the universities. The <sup>5</sup> president of this society has a weekly class, attended by more theological students, so far as I am informed, than meets in any seminary of theology.” <sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Professor Franklin H. Giddings, Columbia University, New York.

<sup>6</sup> *American Journal of Sociology*, March, 1911, p. 692.

The social and economic training alluded to should give (a) a systematic account of society so that the great principles and laws of the larger modern social world as affecting the rural community may be understood. (b) The special industrial and social nature and conditions of agricultural regions. (c) The functions which a church may rightfully perform and which it should undertake for such communities. (d) How to make a sociological investigation or study of the neighbourhood, which shall not only be a religious canvass of the district, but which shall take in the vital conditions of age, sex, nationalities, wealth, occupation, social status, dependent, defective, and delinquent factors, education, and social organisations.

2. The church must be socialised. This means to adapt it to the needs of the times and place. Enough has been said in our earlier consideration of the church as to what may be done. In case the church cannot become a social service church every pastor may become a social service pastor.

"There are some things the church cannot do; there is nothing it may not through its pastor inspire. There are some uses to which the country church cannot be put; there are no uses to which the country pastor may not be put. . . . The pastor ought to be an authority on social salvation as well as on personal salvation. . . . He is relatively a fixture. He is less transient than the teacher." Hence he is the logical leader in community affairs.<sup>7</sup>

There are several instances of socialised rural churches. One instance will be reproduced here.

"At Plainfield, Illinois, is a very notable country church, in which, under the leadership of a man of independent genius, the church has become the social centre of the whole community. In this instance the farmers have felt no need of economic leadership. They are still tilling a fertile soil, and before its fertility is exhausted the newer agriculture will

<sup>7</sup> Butterfield, "Chapters in Rural Progress," pp. 177-9.



doubtless enable them to maintain their place. But the church in the community has undertaken the social cultivation of the people. It has assembled the young people for musical, theatrical, and athletic enjoyment and training. The church edifice has been rebuilt; and instead of one room for worship only, the building now contains a gymnasium, dining-room, cloakrooms for men and women, and a rest-room for mothers with babies in their arms, young people's social parlour, study, and numerous classrooms for use in religious training of various groups. The success of this church has been in satisfying the social needs of the community. It has had to compete with granges and social clubs and has survived where they have failed. This church itself has grown in membership, and in moral and spiritual power, with the social culture which it has imparted to the community." <sup>8</sup>

3. Union and coöperation should be substituted for sectarian divisiveness. There is ecclesiastical, economic, and social waste from the present system. Churches need federation in order to survive. They must have it to do the needed work. It would be an agency to unify the community socially. By statistical coöperation the various churches may arrive at a clear conception of the field confronting them, and enter upon an effective division of labour. All students of rural matters who believe that the church has a service to perform for the country advocate federal coöperation.

The churches in the foreign mission field are setting an example in this direction. The field is districted into spheres of work and each denomination is allotted a distinct field. Some approach is being made to this in home mission work. Certain denominations have a working agreement not to intrude into each other's territory in duplicating churches, and are uniting or allotting activities in an overchurched district.

**The Young Men's Christian Association.**<sup>9</sup>— It is legitimate

<sup>8</sup> *American Journal of Sociology*, March, 1911, p. 685.

<sup>9</sup> Since this was written "Rural Work of the Young Men's Christian

to treat this organisation under the term church, since the general term church stands for all religious agencies. The Y. M. C. A. is a well known and established institution in city religious and educational work. It has begun rural work so recently that it is difficult to arrive at a just conception of its activities.

The plan generally followed consists of an initiation of the movement by the State Committee, a campaign for funds by a County Committee, a county organising convention, the election of a county board, and the selection of a county secretary. The secretary organises local groups or clubs, the intention being to place one within easy walking distance of every boy in the country. These locals have their volunteer leaders and officers. Where possible club buildings are erected. The work is thus made intensive. Orange County, California, has two such community buildings. "These buildings are bungalow style, having class rooms, club rooms, and kitchen facilities. A large playground in the rear of each affords splendid opportunity for outdoor games, and in both cases these buildings and playgrounds have become the centre of boy life in these communities."

With the growth of the movement it is expected that county officers other than the secretary will be employed, such as physical directors and social centre directors. At present the activities are those which local volunteer conditions will permit: Bible classes, social meetings, feasts, Boy Scout organisations and work, camps, entertainments, and kindred enterprises. The play tendencies and rights of boys are recognised and given their appropriate exercise. Lessons in health and hygiene naturally go along with the physical work. In one small community one-third of the school boys were, upon examination, found to have a tobacco heart induced by use

'Association," by A. E. Roberts and Henry Israel, appeared in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, March, 1912, giving a more adequate account of county work.

of pipes and cigarettes. A donation of pipes resulted and boys and parents alike were made, at least temporarily, more serious minded. Travelling exhibits by stereopticon of tuberculosis and other diseases, with lectures by local physicians are promoted. Encouragement of coöperation on the part of rural institutions for community improvement is given. Country fairs have been cleansed and reforms undertaken. Christian life and morals receive initiation and stimulus. Country churches are assisted. Such are some of the achievements of County Work organisations.

The Y. M. C. A. conducts summer schools for County Work at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Silver Bay, New York, and Estes Park, Colorado. Over ninety per cent. of the entire force employed have attended summer meetings.

This Y. M. C. A. movement is seen to be comprehensive, alert, vigorous, and practical. Much is to be hoped from it. Says Hon. C. C. James of Ottawa, Canada:

"The rural manhood branch of the Y. M. C. A. is to my mind the most important, it is the most promising, it enters a field that is unlimited in opportunity, and from the results that we are getting in work with our farmers' clubs I believe it will grow rapidly."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> The files of *Rural Manhood* furnished the material for this section.

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## CHAPTER XVI

### SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS (CONTINUED) — ADJUSTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RURAL NEEDS

The consideration of education is the most important matter in modern life. Present-day civilisation is built upon intellectual attainments. The matter and methods of science rest beneath our chiefest social structures. Minds immersed in ignorance, sluggish in their action or clouded with the vestiges of past superstitions are unfitted to do the work of their age. The schools of the land are the agencies of inculcating that enlightenment on which both conservation and progress depend and on their successful operation hangs the destiny of the future. To make them qualified and efficient should be the highest aim of good citizens. Rural schools and rural education as portions of our educational agencies share in this regard. The more outstanding features will receive consideration.

In order to face the matter squarely so that we may see the strength and the weakness of our system of training for country life, it will be best to view the demands which press upon rural education.

**General Sociological Demands.**—Certain demands of a general nature are common to both rural and urban education. We may call them sociological because only will sociological consideration reveal them. Social conditions are the closest and most dominant environment of modern men. We depend more immediately on institutions and social agencies to supply our wants than on nature. Nature is ultimate. If she fails, social beings die. But, other things being equal, we reach her through and by means of artificial structures. The farm-

er does this also, as we saw in Chapter 2. Hence it is coming to be recognised that it is by a study of these changing, developing, external social conditions that the future of the individual and the nature of his education are to be discovered. The general sociological demands are the following:

1. The particular age and place impose their own conditions. First, the age has a spirit or certain dominating interests which cannot be avoided. One of these interests is the scientific. Accurate knowledge and methods of procedure have entered into all developed processes of life and are forcing themselves upon others. Industrial processes are founded on the various sciences. Chemistry lies at the basis of preparation and preservation of foods, which a competent housewife should know; and beneath a knowledge of soils, which the farmer should have.

Second, the region or particular kind of community, imposes its demands. Communities are differentiated by means of their interests. They may be mining, stock-raising, agricultural, industrial, commercial. As such their pursuits, aims, activities, agencies, and matters of knowledge are different. The community business or interest determines the kind of vocational training an individual should have.

Ninety or ninety-five per cent. of the population will either remain in the community they are born and reared in, or will remove to a similar community, one with similar interests. The dominant pursuits of a region may determine what the pupils should be trained for without doing an injustice to any. If this plan is not followed an injustice is done to a large majority.

2. Specialisation to meet differing demands of a highly organised society is required. That society has evolved from the simple to the complex, from a stage of hardly any specialised functions to one of thousands, cannot be doubted. That the process of differentiation is continuing is a well-

established fact. This means that we are living in an age when specialisation is necessary to success. If one is to be master of his fortune he must be master of his business. Society imposes a responsibility here. It demands that the person must not steal his living, else he will be imprisoned; that he shall support himself legally, or he will be called a pauper. It asks that he shall harness himself into some one of its specialties, make a success of it, or else be a floating day-labourer or a parasite. The educational process, therefore, must involve a considerable degree of specialisation or vocationalisation.

3. The social situation requires of men an intelligence as to public matters and a profound love of community welfare. Society is growing democratic. The people are demanding greater measures of control of government. They must consequently have a larger insight into the nature of the complicated mechanism they are to direct and a deeper devotion to its interests. If democracy is to prevail and make progress, an enlightened public mind on matters of state must exist. This calls for emphasis on social study in the schools. The nature of community life, as sociology reveals it, is involved. Economics and civics demand accentuation. These must be taught earlier and with a view to imparting a sympathetic insight and understanding of society and social problems.

A greater degree of self-government should take place in the schools. One-man rule is poor preparation for self-direction. Absolutism is not a training for democracy. The general or community interest will not arouse affection if the individual's interest and sense of justice is never put into operation in relation to it. Moralisation of our citizenship depends on, among other things, a participation during the school period in weighing and deciding matters of dispute and infringement of rules.

4. Democracy in education requires that the needs of the

masses should be met. We have educated for the few and disregarded the many. The talented and the leisure class rather than the average, were in mind when courses of study were organised. Tradition commonly ruled and the burden of what had been useful laid its hand heavily on the present, crowding out the useful and the near.

Over 95 per cent. of the social energy of the nation is directly devoted to matters of getting a living.<sup>1</sup> Consequently a knowledge of the technical processes and skill, on which this life activity is based, must have a very large recognition in the schools.

Again, probably less than 40 per cent. of the children of the United States advance in education beyond the eighth grade, and about 50 per cent. are eliminated from the schools by the beginning of the seventh grade. This means that education must be useful and practical before all else; that what is to be done for individuals to equip them to carry on their life business competently must be done for them in the elementary schools. The best interests of the majority demand this. It is not a whim nor a fad; it is justice.

#### I. RURAL SCHOOLS

**Deficiencies of Rural Schools.**—The public school system is often referred to as the grandest educational system of the world. It certainly is a remarkable scheme for socialising the young individual. Yet our schools, and particularly the rural schools, are open to criticism.

1. They are wasteful. The scattered condition of the inhabitants has often made it necessary to place a very few pupils in a single school. In Virginia a few years since there were 150 schools that had six pupils or less. In the state of Maine in 1892 there were more than 1,000 schools with an average attendance per school of 12 pupils or less. The

<sup>1</sup> See the Author's "Vocational Education," pp. 109-112, where the computation is made.



superintendent of that state indicated that 800 of these schools could be abolished with advantage. Other states have reported as bad or worse conditions.

Recent investigations in North Dakota reveal similar conditions. Table 26 indicates this situation.

TABLE XXII <sup>2</sup>

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Size of School	Number of Schools	Per Cent.
Four or less.....	152	3.9
Five .....	176	4.5
Six .....	217	5.5
Seven .....	269	6.7
Eight .....	329	8.3
Nine .....	343	8.7
Ten .....	400	10.1
Total of 10 or less.....	1,888	47.7
Eleven .....	295	7.5
Twelve .....	268	6.9
Twelve to 15.....	605	15.2
Fifteen to 20.....	560	14.5
Over 20 .....	336	8.5
Totals .....	3,951	100.0

Average square miles to each school ..... 15.6

The fact is evident that within certain limits, a large school, say of fifty pupils, can be maintained at the same relative expense as can a school of five. The teacher and the fuel are the chief elements of expense.

The same investigation into North Dakota conditions affords us a view of the relative expense of smaller and larger schools. Table 27 presents the facts.

2. Rural schools fail to educate in view of the surroundings. The business demands of agriculture are ignored, home-making and child culture have no place, consideration

<sup>2</sup> "Problem of the Rural School." N. C. Abbot, *North Dakota Teachers' Bulletin*, March, 1911, p. 2.

TABLE XXIII

## DETAILS ON SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

Averages based on Actual Attendance	State as a Whole	Cities and Villages	Rural Dis- tricts	Village Consol. Schools	Rural Consol. School
Annual cost of tuition....	42.44	41.94	41.54	58.63	57.14
Annual cost for teachers..	27.74	28.41	31.07	21.31	20.88
Annual cost for school offi- cers .....	1.55	.49	3.43	.79	1.95
Annual cost for incidentals	13.08	13.04	7.03	12.13	8.97
Daily cost of tuition based on attendance .....	28.9	22.8	30.3	30.0	34.7
Average number of days school per pupil.....	94.6	160.8	70.0	1.39	1.05

of the community problems is absent, and the peculiar social and recreational needs of country neighbourhoods find slight recognition.

3. There is lack of stimulus among the pupils of the country schools on account of their small number. Competition enters into the life of education. A class of 12 to 20 will make more progress than one of five or less, because the members stimulate each other to greater effort.

4. The school term is too short to do good work. This tends towards the deterioration of schools both because it fails to advance the pupils as they should advance and it affords a very small inducement to capable teachers to carry on the teaching. Six or seven months a year with only a moderate monthly salary is not a large attraction for capable young men and women.

5. In many of the states the rural schools are conducted by teachers who are inefficient. They often teach as an appendage to other businesses. Or, more frequently, the young woman teaches only until her marriage.

The training of the teachers is insufficient. Many of the teachers in rural schools were but recently pupils of the

schools which they themselves teach. They start in with barely enough knowledge to get the lowest grade certificate, with scant knowledge of methods, aims of education, or nature of the child. Information from 22 counties and 16 cities of North Dakota corroborates the statement. The percentage of teachers in the elementary schools of the 22 counties who do not have the equivalent of a high school training, none being college or normal graduates, varies from 5 to 80 per cent.

Of the 262 grade teachers of 16 of the larger cities of the state reported upon, 250 are either normal or college graduates, and 7 more are high school graduates.<sup>3</sup>

6. The rural schoolhouses are inadequate. There should be a place that is fitted to be a social centre. At present there are few such suitable buildings in the country. The schoolhouses are small and ill suited for such purposes. They are poorly built, have little or no ventilation, and are often badly located. They also fail to afford the rooms which the equipment and facilities for vocational training of boys and girls for the farm and home require.

**Particular Demands of the Country.**—What was said in the two preceding sections will serve as a background for the special demands on education which rural regions make. Modern demands as profoundly grip rural as urban inhabitants, though they are less intrusive and conspicuous. Some particulars of these requirements may be given.

1. Scientific agriculture should be an intimate part of the educational curriculum. This must be taken in its larger sense as including the topics we have treated previously. Farm management, crop and animal production, farm mechanics, construction and arrangement of buildings, appreciation of the conveniences and utilities on the farm and in the home, an understanding of the conditions of cleanliness

<sup>3</sup> "Is the Country Child Getting a Square Deal," Arland D. Weeks,—*The Extension*, Agricultural College of N. Dak., April, 1909, p. 4.

and health, and an inculcation of ideals of taste and beauty; are some of the prominent subjects which demand attention. Good farming, good homes, and good neighbourhoods are dependent on their comprehension. The problem is to get these things understood by the masses. All the agencies now at work — agricultural colleges, United States Department of Agriculture, agricultural high schools, experiment stations, extension work, and farmers' institutes — are hardly touching the masses. Only an occasional farmer and farmer's son get the light.

As a factor in this enlightenment the use of agricultural reports and bulletins are important. The average farmer does not use the splendid literature which our government and the agricultural colleges send out to him. He is not fitted to read them and does not know how to obtain and to preserve them. Probably many of the bulletins are too technically written. But the schools have a task to perform in teaching the more mature children how to coöperate with government bureaus and agricultural institutions as to the use and the preservation of certain of the more practical and helpful literature.

2. Domestic science must be taught to the daughters of farmers. The high schools and elementary schools are responsible for giving women of the cities an equipment for conducting homes on a more economical and scientific basis. Welfare, happiness and health of the home demand this. The task is being assumed by urban education. It is also recognised that this training must be given in the grades, as most of the girls go no farther with their schooling.

It is unquestioned that the girls of the country stand in need of such training, and that they have a right to it. Perhaps they participate in household work more than do their urban sisters and consequently know more of the current traditional household economy. There may be many excellent housekeepers in the country, but the fact remains that it

sustains about as general a lack of improved housekeeping methods as the city.

The latest and most up-to-date farm machinery may be found at work in the fields, but anything is regarded as good enough for the house, and improvements there are considered as a wasted investment. The girls must be educated to better ways, to maintain their dignity and rights in the home, and to view their work as a social function for which they are sacredly and specifically set apart. The school must teach that the household activities are on a par with those of raising grain and stock. Home making, child-nurture, and child-culture lie at the basis of human society. Raising grain and stock is a means to an end. It is ignorance which permits it to be regarded as the greatest object and the home as incidental. Proper education of both girls and boys will go far to correct this distorted conception.

Girls need practical training in child raising quite as much as boys require teaching about agriculture. Chicago schools are now attempting to qualify the older children for the care of younger ones. Perhaps psychology of a mature sort, and the finer points of child study, cannot be taught to country children. But a better conception may be given of the requirements of motherhood; of proper foods and clothing for infants; of the deadliness of soothing syrup "dopes" and other drugs, of the periods of teething and the stages of physical development; of the changes in the nature of foods required during the different periods of infancy; and of some insight into children's ways, interests and rights, so that indirect methods of control may supersede that of government by brute strength.

3. Special attention to the socialisation of country children must be given. This is coming to be recognised. Says President Henry Smith Pritchett, "The more one considers this whole question, the more fully one is persuaded that the problem of teaching the boy on the farm, training him into

a successful agent for a new scientific business of farming and making him a factor in the conservation of resources, is inextricably connected with the larger problem of the betterment of social and economic conditions of rural life.”<sup>4</sup>

The understanding of social and economic conditions is not a matter of light and incidental reading. The social viewpoint must be embodied in the educational process as a matter-of-fact, constant, and integral factor. It must be an atmosphere in which the developing minds live. The social outlook and impulse should become as natural as the individualistic to the developing child. The simplest phases of the social and economic problems of the neighbourhood should be grafted on to the curriculum. Some courses running through the elementary grades, which are called “social study” have been outlined.<sup>5</sup> These studies would make children acquainted with their social environment and give them some appreciation of the conditions, problems and requirements of community life. The present volume contains much of the matter which this socialisation involves.

It is to be observed that this socialisation is also a moralisation, for, as Professor Dewey points out, there is a vast difference between “moral ideas” and “ideas about morality,” and what is now needed is the former. “We need to translate the moral into the conditions and forces of community life, and into the impulses and habits of the individual.”<sup>6</sup>

School management will constitute a part in this process of socialisation. Self-government and self-control in school affairs involve the principles which are at the foundation of the larger community life. They impart the attitude and habits which will find realisation in mature affairs. Organ-

<sup>4</sup> Fourth Annual Report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, p. 106.

<sup>5</sup> Since this was written North Dakota has placed such a course, prepared by the writer in the first six grades of its elementary schools.

<sup>6</sup> John Dewey, “Moral Principles in Education,” pp. 57-58.

ised play, well conducted sports and games, and the social activities of the neighbourhood, are also important factors. Civics and history may be made more helpful by the elimination of much extraneous and irrelevant matter and the inclusion of matter of vital and current moment.<sup>7</sup> Discussions in current events are also vitally contributive.

Economic teaching of a simple, practical sort is imperative. Farm management and farmers' organisations for marketing the produce, principles of coöperation and its advantages, and an understanding of the place of agriculture among other callings in society form very essential topics of discussion. If farmers are to organise and coöperate the coming generation must be educated to an appreciation of the need and in the principles and methods of coöperation.

In equipping for farm life the other kinds of schools cannot reach the mass of people who need reaching. All the public schools of the nation put together hardly accomplish this. "In New York State, for example, there are some fifty-five agricultural counties. If each of these counties had an agricultural high school graduating fifty pupils each year, to give only one boy from each farm in the state an agricultural course would require eighty-two years; and new generations are coming on in the meantime." Moreover, the separate trade schools are likely to endanger the existence of our common schools from the very fact that they teach the essentials of living better, will thrive, become duplicated and ultimately exterminate the latter.<sup>8</sup>

4. Procuring a resident rural leadership is one of the most important considerations in rural life. It is a part of the educational situation because the schools must develop it.

(1) It is the opinion of competent observers that there is a dearth of rural leadership. "The rural people are not lost;

<sup>7</sup> See "Reconstruction of History for Teaching Purposes," J. M. Gillette, *School Review*, October, 1909.

<sup>8</sup> Bailey, "The State and the Farmer," pp. 154-59.

they need opportunity and leadership. So far as possible the work should be established in real rural regions, outside the towns." <sup>9</sup> "Fundamentally it may be said that the problem of the farm and of the improvement and conservation of the soil is clearly one of calling for leadership of a high order. . . . It is more difficult to distribute the fruits of science, to make them effective instruments in the hands of the great multitude, than it is to win them at first hand. How to bring to the rural population of the United States technical and financial efficiency, together with social contentment, is perhaps the most difficult problem of our democracy." <sup>10</sup> The Country Life Commission likewise recognises the deficiency.

Since country youths are being educated in great numbers in the higher institutions of learning it might be supposed that a developed resident rural leadership would result. An investigation as to what becomes of these students and graduates led to the conclusion that accepting attendance upon a long course of instruction in, or graduation from, a normal school, an agricultural college, or a university as a sign of leadership, relatively little of the products of the normals, a majority of those of the actual farming courses of agricultural colleges, and practically none of the products of the universities whose origin was the farm, return to farm life, although a small per cent. of those from normals and universities settle in semi-urban communities.<sup>11</sup> It is thus seen that the country is being robbed of its educated leadership by the city.

Nor is there much hope that the educated element from these institutions can be retained in the country. Universities do not consider it their problem. State normal schools are doing something in agricultural training but their grad-

<sup>9</sup> Bailey, "The State and the Farmer," p. 87.

<sup>10</sup> Pritchett, *op. cit.*, p. 107.

<sup>11</sup> *Quarterly Journal of the University of North Dakota*, October, 1910, p. 76.



uates and students do not largely go into real country work. Bona fide agricultural courses constitute but a fraction of the educational effort of agricultural colleges, at least of those independent of state universities. Of the graduates from these courses the far larger portion go into government work, experiment station work, teaching of agriculture in colleges and high schools, and agricultural publication work. The situation does not promise to change within many years. We must expect a supply of leaders from some other direction.

(2) A consideration of the necessity for a leadership in society generally indicates its importance in rural affairs. It is an established sociological teaching that the vast majority of people are imitators, not originators. They are thus conservers of what already exists rather than creators of new methods and conditions. The problem of civilisation is to develop a larger proportion of inventors and talented individuals. Potentially, there is a far larger proportion of able men and women than is commonly supposed. But they are undeveloped in ability and remain inert and unproductive. Even good imitators, individuals who know what is being done in society elsewhere and who are able to get it done in their own community are relatively rare. The problem of the country is, therefore, to educate a greater proportion of the "born" talented into creators and originators; and to train a larger number of "born" imitators up to a stage of intelligent appreciation of community welfare work, and of leadership in realising it in their own community.

(3) Rural progress calls for leadership. A rapid improvement awaits the development of an intelligent resident rural leadership. Good farmers who are successful in farm management will be called on to arouse others and show the way. Those who know best how to raise grain or cattle must be depended on to lead in inciting others thereto. If

prices of produce are to be raised and cost of commodities purchased are to be lowered through coöperation some larger spirit must take the initiative. If churches are to be improved and education adjusted, farmers, preachers and teachers of larger vision and dynamic type are requisite to secure neighbourhood coöperation. The task of securing this qualified leadership is gigantic and rural improvement, in view of its scarcity, almost appears as a remote dream.

(4) The rural schools have been part cause of the drift of leadership from the country. They educate away from country life. They have remained so inert that they not only stand aloof from the interest and life which surrounds them, but in subject matter and in ideals given through the subject matter the influence and stimulus are away from farm life. How much of the farm, farming, country life, and lives of "hero" farmers get into reading lessons, histories, geographies, etc.? Ideals are formed out of what the mind feeds upon. If all the facts and persons studied are chosen from non-agricultural communities, why should not the aims and ambitions of country youth centre in the world that is important enough to be put into their books, their schools, libraries, their "education"?

The general reading matter of the community also directs away from farm life. The farmer must read for knowledge, inspiration and courage, and to obtain mastery over conditions, or he is subdued and repelled. There is very little literature that is specially adapted to rural life. The Bible is commonly read from the point of view of "texts" and needs to be interpreted and adjusted to present conditions. Novels have no special relation to conditions under which farmers live. There are few good ones depicting the real farmer. They are likely to be caricatures in types of agricultural life and vocabulary. There are practically no good poems of farm life. Those which are written are from the library or study point of view.

The nature books are largely forced and lack personality. There is no history of farm life or farm people. Biographies are those of persons who have made their way in other careers.<sup>12</sup>

The general attractiveness of city life, the cleaner and more definite pursuits, the larger business inducements and other allurements, also operate to draw young ambitious persons to the cities.

(5) It is evident that a permanent rural leadership must be developed in country regions and institutions. These institutions must be centred in the interests fundamental to farming communities. They must impart a knowledge of the technical processes of farm and home, inspire a love and loyalty for farm life, and infuse ideals of heroism and attainment which are not foreign to the country and which will not have to be imported to the city to be realised.

While the teacher and preacher may be looked to for leadership in certain directions they cannot be expected to identify themselves with rural interests so long as they are fleeting residents. The member of the community on whom the permanent and full responsibility for inspiration, guidance, and wise counsel regarding the general social interests rests, must be the farmer. If he does not meet it no one else can or will. He is most interested, has most at stake in every respect, is a life resident, and for these reasons in addition to others he cannot hope to deputise outside persons to do the work. The institution which trains him to this competency and responsibility must be within his reach. It must be available to all the country residents so that all may have their abilities developed. The rural school must be so improved and developed that it can meet the demand.

5. We have shown the general necessity of rural social centres in past connections.<sup>13</sup> The arguments need no re-

<sup>12</sup> L. H. Bailey, "The Training of Farmers," pp. 37-45.

<sup>13</sup> See previous chapter.

iteration. We take it for granted that such centres must be established. They should afford satisfaction for every legitimate social desire of the community — play, games, sports, contests in athletics, recreation for the different ages and sexes, amusements suited to all, entertainment which is wholesome, dispensation of information, clubs, and organisations.

Much real education in a most entertaining form which would draw the old and young alike could be secured and dispensed by means of motion pictures. A catalog of a film-renting firm illustrates the diversity of educational topics which motion pictures make available. Thousands of films are listed under such general department titles as Agriculture, Applied Science, Fine Arts, Literary, History, Religious, Military, Natural Science, Railroads, Sports, and Travel, which may be rented for a small fee.

The church, as we saw, may become a social centre if it secures high class, wide-awake leadership. That it will do so soon or that such a church centre will be available generally is not probable. The matter cannot be left to such voluntary agencies. Its importance makes it requisite that the community, as a public-minded legal entity, should take the responsibility of establishing and maintaining such an institution. The institution must be democratic, must be available every day in the week, and must guarantee a competent leadership. The church cannot be regarded as the most democratic and ubiquitous clearing house for the social interests of rural communities. Sectarian division, and traditional views as to certain social pastimes, such as dancing, render it impotent to become the democratic institution which the situation demands. The school is the only rural institution which is present in every community and which can be ordered and manned to meet these requirements.

The promise and the actual fulfilment lie in our state and educational agencies. The state educational system is responding to the needs. The schools in many cities are ful-

filing the requirements. They are real centres of neighbourhood activities. Municipalities either in connection with schools or small parks are maintaining social centres by public taxes. The state educational system of certain states is undertaking the establishment and direction of playground and social centres. Wisconsin is an example. Its university has established a department of training for this work, and has an extension division and director which organises centres in the communities of the state. In time the educational system, in its normal schools and other training places for teachers, must respond, and send teachers into rural communities who are trained to meet the needs. Appropriate school buildings and grounds must be created.

**The Consolidation of Rural Schools.**—The greatest hope for a general and thorough betterment of rural social conditions lies in the consolidated school. It is no longer an experiment, having been tried for a score of years in Ohio and in all parts of the land. Its full harvest of beneficial results has not been reaped because in both educational and social directions ideals of what ought to be done are just appearing. Enough in these directions has been secured to insure the formation of more competent plans and methods. Some of the benefits are presented.

1. The consolidated school supplies the social clearing house and social centre needed in rural communities. We have seen that the school is the only completely democratic, non-sectarian, universal and permanent institution rural regions possess. But the small one-room buildings have incapacitated them to act as social centres. The consolidated school, with its larger building and grounds established for social as well as educational objects, serves as a competent agent. Its social serviceability is seen in the case of the children while in school.

“In the consolidated rural school all children from the entire township or district meet, mingle, compete, strive,

make friendships, and learn how to work together. The school is free and accessible to all children within its jurisdiction. All the boys and girls, including those attending high school, return home daily, and, doing their allotted work or chores mornings and evenings, keep in touch with the home, the farm, and all its affairs, and remain within the shelter of home during the most impressionable period of their lives. There is no longer so much occasion for part of the children to attend distant boarding schools or to pay board in the near-by villages to attend high school. Class distinctions, which the old district school unconsciously fostered, are broken down and removed.”<sup>14</sup>

In securing an effective play centre it is worth its cost. Play cannot be organised with the one-room school. There are not enough children of a given age, and frequently not enough all told, to have a baseball or football game, or any other which calls for considerable numbers. Small schools are stupefying in their lack of opportunity for organised activity. Of the Green township, Ohio, consolidated school Mr. Kern says, after a visit: “On the playground all the big boys of the township play baseball. Think what it is to get all the boys of a township — country boys, I mean — on one playground. There will grow up a unity, and each boy having studied and played with other boys of the entire township, will be stronger for it. When the boys and girls of Green township compete with those of Gustavus township in football, baseball, or in literary contests, on athletic ground or in townhall, each team will have the backing of an enthusiastic township.”<sup>15</sup>

The advantages to the adults of the community are secured by having commodious and comfortable homes in the consolidated building for their clubs, organisations, and social

<sup>14</sup> George W. Knorr, “Consolidated Rural Schools and Organisation of a County System,” *U. S. Experimental Station Bulletin*, No. 232, p. 32.

<sup>15</sup> “Among County Schools,” p. 260.

activities. The Government report on consolidated schools exhibits cuts of various buildings which range in price from \$5,000 to \$20,000, and any of them could be made to afford quarters for community purposes. Some of them are splendid looking buildings architecturally, structures a neighbourhood would be proud of. As yet the social feature has not entered largely into the plans and arrangements of such school buildings. The community needs should be met in their arrangement.

2. The educational advantages of consolidation are obvious.

(1) Better grading with its advantages would be secured.

Three teachers could take charge if districts were consolidated into schools of one hundred, one having about 70 pupils and the others the upper classes. If 70 is too many for the first teacher, which undoubtedly is true, then more could be given to the teacher of the upper class and her number reduced.<sup>16</sup>

(2) There is the stimulus which is obtained from numbers. A moderately large school is more successful than a very small school, by reason of the institutional spirit which it begets and the spirit of competition and rivalry which will exist between classes and between members of the same class. All of this creates a healthy condition which stimulates work and often makes a dull, stupid boy or girl a bright energetic individual.

(3) The school year will be longer. As it is now, some strong districts have a long term and the weak districts have a short term. Under consolidation experience shows that much longer school years are sustained and that the attendance is increased and is more regular.

(4) Consolidated schools afford the rooms, equipment, grounds, distribution of time, and specialisation in teaching force which are required to modernise and adjust education to rural needs. Agriculture is taught in conjunction with a

<sup>16</sup> W. T. Harris, *Educational Review*, Vol. XIV, p. 207.

small demonstration farm of five or ten acres, which is a part of the school plant. Manual training and domestic science are provided in the basement or other suitable rooms furnished and equipped for those purposes.

(5) Better supervision of schools and more highly qualified teachers are secured. Mr. Knorr found this to be the case in Ohio. "The data from these Ohio schools represent fair averages and reflect general conditions quite accurately. Of the twenty-four teachers employed in the three district-school townships, one was a graduate of a normal school, seventeen of high schools, two of academies, one of a district school and three were professional teachers of twelve, twenty, and twenty-four years' experience — previous training not stated.

"The three consolidated-school townships employed three principals, three high school assistants and nine elementary school teachers, a total of fifteen. The principals were graduates from colleges and normal schools; one had specially prepared to teach general science. Of the assistant teachers, five were either college graduates or had two or three years of college work to their credit; two were graduates from normal schools; two from academies and two from high schools; nine of the fifteen had normal school training." The consolidated schools demanded two years' experience for teaching, the district schools none.

Supervision is obtained by the daily visit of the principal to the class rooms, whereas the county superintendent sees the district schools but once or twice a year. The latter can make his work more effective in the visitation of sixteen to twenty-five consolidated schools than in one hundred or one hundred fifty district schools. The principal of the consolidated school relieves the teacher of much of the discipline, making her school work more effective.<sup>17</sup>

(6) Country pupils may have the advantage of high

<sup>17</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 61-62.



school education, as many consolidated schools sustain from two to four years of high school work. This increases the number of those who avail themselves of high school privileges. Mr. Knorr writes: "The per cent. of the school population attending high school in the unconsolidated townships was only 2.2 as compared with 12.4 per cent. in consolidated townships." One out of thirty-six pupils in the former and one out of six in the latter attended high school.<sup>18</sup>

(7) The much needed leadership in rural communities is bred and secured. Pupils who secure an adjusted education right in their home schools will remain at home to use it. The increased high school attendance prepares a larger number of educated men and women to assume the direction of affairs. The teaching force becomes an available asset to the community in this direction. "The consolidated school encourages permanency of residence of principal and teachers; it attaches them to the school, begets loyalty and enthusiasm, and makes possible the formulation of long-time plans. The resident principals and teachers often take the leadership in social and literary activities, and, having become a part of the community, set an example of citizenship for all the children. Through contact with parents, as well as with children, they learn the character and home life of the latter quite as intimately as those in district schools, and much better than those in town and city schools."<sup>19</sup> Where normal schools and colleges give them a social outlook and an understanding of rural neighbourhood problems much in the way of leadership may be expected of this teaching force.

3. There can be little doubt that the consolidated school is the most economical system of rural education. The better social and educational benefits it yields is the guarantee of its value. It should not be promoted solely on the grounds of financial saving. Where it has been established as a settled part of community life the citizens of the community

<sup>18</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 29.

<sup>19</sup> Knorr, *op. cit.*, p. 61.

would resent the imputation that the object of consolidating was cheaper rather than better schools. In many cases consolidation has resulted in an actual financial advantage. Thus, in Lagrange county, Indiana, with consolidation in eight townships, Mr. Kern writes: "It appears that the transportation of four hundred and twenty-eight children made possible the closing of thirty-eight schools, a reduction of twenty-four teachers, and a net saving of \$6,734.74."<sup>20</sup>

On the other hand, the comparative table of the attendance and cost of district and consolidated schools in North Dakota indicates a larger expenditure for the latter.<sup>21</sup> Mr. Knorr's investigation indicates that consolidation usually means a slight additional cost per pupil. "Under the stimulus of public conveyance more children attend and do so more regularly, and that adds to the cost of conveyance." He also points out that where district schools raise their standards of teaching to approximate that which obtains in consolidated schools, the increased cost raises their cost of administration so as to equal and even exceed that of the latter.

Education in agriculture and household economy should make country men and women much larger producers and conservers. This stimulus to production would far more than offset any increase of expenditure which consolidation entails. Considering its social, educational, leadership, and financial aspects, consolidation of rural schools may safely be pronounced to be the best educational system and to offer the largest prospects as a means of community improvement.

## II. HIGHER EDUCATION

High schools, normal schools, agricultural colleges, and universities may be regarded as higher educational agencies.

**High Schools and Universities.**—The first and the last of

<sup>20</sup> "Among County Schools," pp. 250-251.

<sup>21</sup> See Table 27.

these institutions have made very little effort to reach country needs. The universities which do not have agricultural colleges as departments cater to urban and mining professions almost exclusively, manifesting little interest or responsibility for the condition of the great farming occupation. The high schools, many of which exist in country districts, are so bound by educational traditions that they do not properly respond to rural exigencies. In some states the high schools maintain professional subjects for preparing students to teach in country schools. Outside of this little consciousness of their larger mission exists. Agricultural topics are tabooed, although domestic economy is taught in some of the larger cities in agricultural regions.

**Normal Schools.**—State normal schools are making some attempt to equip teachers with a knowledge of agriculture. Information obtained indicates a growing consciousness of the responsibility. Some normal schools have courses in agriculture and maintain a small experimental farm or garden to make the work as real as possible. In certain cases instruction is given in rural school matters. Certain normals not only support an experimental and agricultural course but maintain an instructor who devotes his attention to rural school problems.

It is unfortunate that these institutions do not give more serious attention to sociological matters. Some maintain weak courses in economics and civics given by poorly equipped men, and an occasional normal devotes a short term to sociology. Professor Clow has shown that the tendency to sociological courses is gradually rooting into these institutions. He also writes convincingly in behalf of thorough work in sociology as giving the proper foundation for teaching. It is highly desirable that normal schools devote special attention to rural social problems in training the students who expect to teach in the country.

Collected facts indicate how few well-trained teachers

locate in rural districts. They prefer to teach in cities at little better wages and with greater expense to themselves. The normals may do two things to send more teachers to rural schools. First, make special effort to establish an educational and social interest in rural life on the part of normal students generally. Second, differentiate the instruction given in the normal so that there shall be a special rural school normal course. These things would induce more persons to devote themselves to rural education and so qualify them for it as to endow them with special fitness, devotion and permanency for the work.

**Agricultural Colleges.**—The agricultural colleges are the institutions which we should look to for the greatest devotion to farm life both in aim and training activity. We must frankly recognise the good they have done in the direction of improved agricultural production. That they have risen to the height of their full opportunity does not appear. First, they have failed to recognise their true mission, the place they should occupy and the exact work they should do, as institutions among other kinds of state educational institutions. That their mission is not clear to their own managements is indicated by their constituency. "Not only do the strongest of them contain great numbers of secondary school students, but the institutions themselves represent a mixture of many separate educational efforts, in which the ordinary college and the school of technology predominate."<sup>22</sup>

Replies to a questionnaire indicate that in states, where the agricultural colleges are parts of the state university, the larger portion of their students are from the country; while in those states where these institutions are separate from the universities the larger portion of their collegiate students are urban. Again, as to the work their students eventually engage in the data show striking contrasts between the two classes of institutions. New York and Illinois colleges are

<sup>22</sup> "Fourth Carnegie Foundation Report," p. 97.

types of the first class. Replies as to the number of students who settle in the country supply the facts. The reply from Illinois states that a record of some 226 graduates shows 55 per cent. are farmers, 40 per cent. are in agricultural colleges, experiment stations, agricultural publication, agricultural department work, etc., making a total of 95 per cent. who are direct and indirect agriculturists. New York reports that 71 per cent. of its former living students are in some form of farm work, and 20 per cent. in some form of agricultural education.

The case is decidedly different with the students and graduates of separate agricultural colleges. In Iowa and North Dakota those institutions are separate from the universities of those states and maintain, besides the agricultural courses, courses in mechanical, electrical, mining and civil engineering which are largely attended. Most of the students of those non-agricultural courses never intend to take up farm life nor do the courses articulate in any vital way with agricultural interests. Thus in Iowa in 1909 out of 226 graduates but 56 took some course relating to agriculture; and out of 1,160 graduates whose occupations were known, 275 were directly or indirectly connected with agriculture, 132 of the 275, directly. Of the 776 students in the Agricultural College of North Dakota in 1909-10, but 98 were pursuing long courses leading up to farming.<sup>23</sup>

President Pritchett says: "The college of agriculture and mechanic arts has imitated mainly the old arts college and the school of technology. In very many cases the engineering side has run away with the agricultural side, and in practically all of the agricultural colleges to-day it entirely overshadows in numbers and in influence the college of agriculture."<sup>24</sup> Besides this traditional imitation because of no

<sup>23</sup> *Quarterly Journal, University North Dakota*, October, 1911, pp. 75-6.

<sup>24</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 100.

clear conception of their missions, the separate institutions have had political reasons for seeking to build up large student bodies, whatever their source, destiny or kind of instruction. Early in their careers the farmers fought shy of them. In consequence the agricultural and mechanical colleges resorted to all kinds of devices to get students.<sup>25</sup>

The fact remains that they have hardly touched the situation. "It is clear that the agricultural colleges, working as they are to-day, will not in a hundred years reach the men who must be taught practical farming. The conservation of the resources of the soil has steadily deteriorated in most states, notwithstanding the existence for forty years of these agencies."

Second, these institutions have failed to recognise the social character of the rural problem. It might have been expected, that above all educational agencies, they would have seen that the improvement of farm life, of leadership, and the general enlightenment of the population on fundamental economic and social matters, are means and conditions of securing improved production. Only recently have agricultural college men assumed an aggressive leadership in any of these matters. Only a few institutions give anything like adequate instruction in these phases of farm life. The sciences of government and economics are usually backward in agricultural institutions, have little application to rural conditions, and sociology of any sort is almost unknown. Yet these are the sciences which must be depended on to give the information and point of view which are needful to create an intelligent leadership, and instructional staff for lower grade institutions.

**Additional Requirements.**—In addition to what has been said about the improvement of high and normal school instruction to meet agricultural needs it is evident that other things are required. First, the agricultural colleges must

<sup>25</sup> Pritchett, *op. cit.*, p. 103.

recognise their mission and devote themselves to its accomplishment. Such an institution would be "A college of agriculture associated with an experiment station and starting from the same entrance requirements as other college departments. Such a college would train leaders in agriculture, the managers of great agricultural plants, teachers of agriculture, and the like. This conception would be fulfilled by an agricultural college pure and simple, whether a part of a university or whether a separate agricultural college."<sup>26</sup>

Second, adequate means must be taken to train men for the occupation of farming by institutions which are closely associated with the farm neighbourhood. "If we are to train men for the thousands of positions which are to be filled in every state in the practical operation of farms, we need not one agricultural college, but many agricultural trade schools; and to bring about this result we need to keep closely in mind the distinction between an agricultural trade school and an agricultural college." Wisconsin and Minnesota are leading in this direction. Wisconsin has established four agricultural high schools and will erect others. It is likely that the trade school work will be turned over to these schools. This work in the university has been separated from that of the agricultural college and given to a special staff of secondary school instructors. In Minnesota a separate school of agriculture has been established near Crookston which is practically on a trade school basis.<sup>27</sup> In addition to this it "has just enacted a law by which any high school which will add a department of agriculture that meets the requirement of the State Board of Education may draw upon the state funds to the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars annually, the number of schools being limited to ten additional for each year. Over sixty made the first application, many of which are going on with their plans independent of state aid."

Dean Davenport of the School of Agriculture in Illinois

<sup>26</sup> Pritchett, *op. cit.*, p. 98.

<sup>27</sup> Pritchett, *op. cit.*, pp. 99-101.

holds that the next place to teach agriculture is in the high schools. He indicates that the demand for teachers of agriculture in high schools has been greater than the supply, that it is less than two years old, and that secondary agricultural education wherever tried has been a great success.<sup>28</sup> Such schools are not technically trade schools but they afford a vocational element.

It has already been amply shown that the rural schools must be depended on to reach the masses of the farming population.

**Extension Work.**—It is being recognised that extending the opportunities of continued education to the people of the state who have ceased to attend the schools and higher educational institutions is an obligation resting on higher institutions of learning. The universities are coöperating with the people of the state in this direction. Generally they confine their efforts to giving instruction by correspondence courses in college work and professional subjects. However, they are broadening their mission. A few institutions offer correspondence work to all ambitious inhabitants of the state, and send lecturers on practically any subject into communities which desire them. The scope of university extension work is constantly broadening and augurs well for the future. As yet it has accomplished little of direct results for farm communities.

The extension effort is the most significant recent development of agricultural colleges. "It is an attempt to put the college in the way of aiding every man to help himself on his own farm. In this effort they have gone farther than any other institution and they are setting an example for all institutions." It "includes all affective personal acquaintanceship with the farmers of the state; all inspection of farms that is not legal and police in character; the giving of advice by correspondence; publication of an educational na-

<sup>28</sup> E. Davenport, "Education for Efficiency," Chap. 7.



ture; coöperation with societies and organisations; advisory and coöperative work with schools; the organising of boys' and girls' clubs in schools and country districts; the conducting of reading courses for farmers, farmers' wives and rural school teachers; experiments and demonstrations on farms; holding of 'farmers' weeks' and other conventions; lectures, itinerant schools, and the like; and all species of helpfulness and advice to the people on the land. The extension department of a college of agriculture should be a means of arousing the country people, and then of helping and guiding them."

Professor Bailey regards the institute as a permanent means of reaching the farmers from agricultural colleges. "We must develop a new type of institute man,"<sup>29</sup> unlike the college professor on the one hand and the so-called practical farmer on the other." Such men must have special training in and close contact with the colleges, and live on the land a part of the time; and should be farmers as well as students. Teaching on farms is likewise important. It carries the laboratory method to the farmer. "A man's farm is his laboratory. No one may direct him how to manage his farm; but a good teacher coming to his place may set him into new lines of thinking and put him in the way of helping himself."<sup>30</sup>

<sup>29</sup> During the year 1911 various North Dakota associations for the improvement of farming have placed in the field men of the above type. The same plan is to be executed in expending the million dollar fund to improve farming which was created by the Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago, in May, 1912.

<sup>30</sup> "The State and the Farmer," p. 17 ff; and "The Training of Farmers," pp. 252-256.

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## CHAPTER XVII

### RURAL CHARITY AND CORRECTION

#### I. CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY

In Chapter 6 statistics appeared of the comparative amount of pauperism and crime in city and country. They confirm the statement that the country is relatively immune from the vice, crime, and pauperising conditions of the cities. Yet there are sufficient pathological conditions in rural regions to warrant serious attention.

**Pauperism.**—There is much pauperism in rural regions where it would not be expected, and, certainly, more than is legitimate. Where the “outdoor” method of administering relief is practised this is likely to be the case. In the hands of men, generally county commissioners, ignorant of the conditions which breed paupers and of the significance of the fact of pauperism; without knowledge of adequate and preventive means of giving assistance; this method could not be expected to result otherwise than in building up a permanent class of dependents.

In some cases also commissioners are known to use relief work as a means of obtaining the political support of a certain element in their county or township. Again, it is found that, in some states, their fees are determined by the day and the temptation is strong to increase them by making a relief order stand for a day’s work. Thus, in North Dakota, some commissioners write such an order and charge the county five dollars for a day’s work. This system encourages commissioners to sustain a horde of dependents and to oppose every effort which promises to reduce their number.

Very seldom is an applicant for relief investigated as to worthiness and extent of need. There is little or no visitation to see if the assistance is properly used or if it should be discontinued. An officer seldom regards it as his duty to give help so that it does not pauperise, or to attempt to reclaim the professional pauper to self-supporting citizenship. Our county system of administering relief is about as vicious as it could be because it encourages rather than discourages the condition it should seek to remove.

Much should be said about the indoor method of assisting the dependent. Probably most of the almshouses are conducted in a way to foster a dependent class. Almshouses should be retained for the permanent classes of impoverished persons. Others should be excluded. Admission and dismissal should be strictly guarded. The common practice is to send all classes of cases there, and to admit and dismiss individuals largely upon their own volition. Half-witted women use them as a lying-in place, depart at will, only to return again for the same purpose, thus adding to the population both a dependent and defective element. Young children are housed among professional paupers and others of vicious or undesirable habits and by the process of imitation come to be contaminated. It is almost inevitable that they should recruit either the dependent or the delinquent class.

Unwise philanthropy assists the enlargement of the rural dependent class. Feeding tramps is a standing practice in most of our farm regions. This amounts to breeding tramps, for it is an inducement to shiftless individuals to secure an easy living. In the West there has been developed a new species of tramp.

"They live in a covered wagon and with a broken-down team of horses they travel from town to town and from place to place, camping in the woodside, begging bread for the family and corn and fodder for the horses." These migrants are not criminals but they do not hesitate to appropriate the

things they need. Investigation of a large number of cases showed that the majority of the women were immoral.

**Vice.**—Crime, as we discovered, is less prolific in rural than in urban districts. Yet the former possesses a sufficient amount to demand earnest attention. We have noted that tramps are found throughout the country. Many of them are criminal in tendency and in practice. The floating labour class which abounds at certain seasons of the year contributes its quota to the establishment of vicious example. These two classes furnish many of the cases of theft, assault, and rape which occur. Much less vice exists in the open country than in villages and small cities. Prostitution hardly occurs.

The small towns in many cases are infested with vicious habits and rowdyism. Insufficient police force is partly responsible for this condition. Boys are allowed to grow up with idle habits and a freedom of life entirely unsuppressed. They develop a spirit of resistance to the laws and consequently a sort of imbecile rowdyism which leads to viciousness and finally to crime. This shows itself in petty crimes and misdemeanours. The "bad boy" has unusually large opportunities in the direction of infecting other boys and in organising mischief in these small places.

"Where boys are allowed to loaf in gangs about the street corners, or engage in shooting craps or playing cards in obscure corners of the town, using obscene language, making idle or indecent remarks about passers-by, committed to the cigarette habit and other lewd habits, there is developed a tendency to evil which once well rooted, can never be overcome."

One of the semi-pathological conditions which quite generally exists in country regions is salacious conversation. The talk which takes place about the threshing machine during idle periods illustrates this. The most disreputable stories are about the only kind narrated. Allusions to the

most private affairs of the sexes are frequent and the chief enjoyment is gained from the coarse humour of such butts and stories.

Polluted conversation and thoughts are decided influences toward degeneration. "The mind of youth that runs to vile language, vile thoughts, and vile conceptions soon loses its native power and is on the road to degeneration of thought, if not imbecility." The effect on the moral power is still greater. Persons engaging in salacious conversation lose their moral standards and are without a guide.

This is a phase of isolation. If the city has too much rush and stimulus the country has so little that it puts a premium on stagnation and degeneracy.<sup>1</sup>

The noted <sup>2</sup> Jukes family is an example of the combination of vice and dependency which may be allowed to develop in neglected rural communities. The original Jukes were rural New Yorkers, as were many of the descendants. But of a total lineage of 1,200 persons 709 were investigated by Mr. Dugdale. Of these 540 were of Jukes blood and 169 connected by marriage. Of the 305 blooded Jukes who reached marriageable age, 82 were illegitimate, 73 prostitutes, 12 kept brothels, 51 were syphilitic, 49 were criminals, 95 received outdoor and 53 almshouse relief. Of the 169 who married Jukes, 9 were illegitimate, 55 prostitutes, 6 kept brothels, 16 were syphilitics, 27 were criminals, 47 received outdoor and 11 almshouse relief. This takes no account of the 58 of the first class and 23 of the second class who were unascertained. Fifty-two and four-tenths per cent. of the Jukes women were harlots. The investigator estimated that in 75 years they cost the community \$1,250,000,

<sup>1</sup> Blackmar, F. W., "Social Degeneration in Towns and Rural Districts," National Conference of Charities and Correction, 1900, pp. 115-24.

<sup>2</sup> Recently Dr. Goddard has published "The Kallikak Family." The family studied is essentially a rural stock which has been prolific of dependents, defectives, and delinquents, especially of defectives.

besides the evil inheritances it imposed on posterity. This family is only an extreme case of a type of family which many country and village communities are breeding. Loose methods of relief, a lax or absent police power, and backward methods of treating youthful offenders are among the conditions which build up and perpetuate these stocks.

Country districts are subject to criminal exploitation of men from the cities. Says Professor Henderson: "The criminals of the city go out to plunder rural banks and stores. The common interest does not stop at city lines. The common enemy must be caught where he can be overtaken. The recent extension of trolley lines into the country and the introduction of swift automobiles have widened the field for professional burglars of cities. Against these trained villains the thin safes of country merchants and banks are mere tissue paper." Attention is also called to the inefficiency of the untrained rural constable and county sheriff when pitted against the shrewd cunning and audacious daring of city-bred criminals.<sup>3</sup>

Rural communities are backward in the maintenance of suitable jails and lockups. The kind which obtain are more often preparatory schools of crime than correctives. Not only are the sanitary conditions vile and unwholesome but the practice of throwing young offenders into prison to course with mature criminals can result in nothing but breeding criminal careers. The sentencing of boys to prisons and remanding them to jails to await trial are practices which act as causes of a greater amount of crime instead of being checks and preventives.

<sup>3</sup> "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," Vol. XL, p. 231.



II. THE IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL CHARITABLE AND  
CORRECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

The usual relief agencies consist of outdoor relief and relief in almshouses.

**Outdoor Relief.**—Of giving aid to the poor outside of institutions we call “poorhouses” much is to be said in its favour. It is quite generally conceded to be the best plan to follow in those cases of poverty which promise to be temporary; also in counties where the number of permanent dependents is small. The reasons for this position may be briefly stated. First, it enables members of the family to share in self-support, and in case of a single individual may lead him to earlier and partial self-support. Second, it keeps the family together, one of the greatest objects in the administration of charity. Third, it avoids attaching to the individual the stigma of having been in the “poorhouse.” Fourth, since a large share of poverty comes in the winter and is temporary in nature the outdoor method saves the investment of dead capital in costly institutions. Fifth, as a supporting reason may be mentioned the fact that the tendency of modern charity is in the direction of outdoor relief.

In case outdoor relief is resorted to, however, there are some necessary precautions which must be taken to make it safe and economical. First, every case should be carefully investigated by a competent person to make it certain that it is one of real need. Otherwise persons are likely to be imbued with a spirit of dependency, and a needless expenditure of public money is made. The first point is the more important. It is easier to pauperise individuals than it is to restore them to independence. No risks should be taken.

Second, great care should be exercised to see that assistance is not prolonged beyond the point of actual need. To unnecessarily prolong assistance is to pauperise. Frequent visitation is therefore essential. Third, careful guardianship

is needed to see that political capital is not made out of aid extended and that votes are not being purchased thereby. Fourth, the aid extended should usually be in the shape of the things actually needed rather than in the shape of money, as the latter may easily be squandered, or used to purchase alcohol. With these and other precautions outdoor relief should be made effective.

**Indoor Relief.**—The following statements may be made relative to relief in almshouses. As in outdoor relief the inmates are to be cared for so as to be restored to actual competency if possible and as soon as possible. Many of the requisites depend on the plan of the structure or buildings.

First, buildings should be constructed so as to permit of a separation of the sexes in order to prevent immorality, illegitimacy, etc. Second, they should be built to permit the separation of children from the adults. Children drink in the lives of the elders they grow up among. If kept in almshouses they should be carefully guarded from the degenerating influences of confirmed paupers, and should be educated carefully. Third, there should be provision made for the isolation of tubercular and other infectious cases, for the danger of inoculation is well known. Fourth, the insane and feeble-minded should never be kept in almshouses, but if they are they should have separate wards provided for them.

Fifth, all able-bodied persons should be given work. Work is the salvation of many dependents and defectives.

Some of the good effects of work are as follows: It aids health, good order and morals; reduces chronic grumbling by taking the mind off the self and creating a feeling of usefulness and dignity; prevents lapsing into a state of dementia, for just as in insane hospitals idleness is found to keep the inmates insane, so in hospitals for the poor it drives them insane; discourages lazy loafers and keeps them out of the almshouses. Work is the best sifting test known. In the Sauk County, Wisconsin, almshouse work revolutionised

the inmates, made them contented, restored many of them. Basket making, chair making, etc., are possible forms of work which might be provided. It is not easy to get the inmates to work but it ought to be attempted as a restorative. Sixth, frequent visitation of the institution should be established. Once a year is insufficient. Good authorities say once a month is none too often. Efficiency depends on visitation by intelligent and interested persons.

**Needed Legislation.**—Some consideration may well be given to needed improvements in the system of poor relief through advance in legislation. All that may be done is to enumerate and appraise the several points briefly. First, where it does not exist, a law should be passed for the establishment of a state board of charities. The board should be separate and special from all other boards.<sup>4</sup> It has special functions, needs special talent. Its work should be one of intelligent supervision of all institutions in the state devoted to the care of dependents, defectives, and delinquents; and there should be rigid inspection by means of a secretary or an inspector who would visit all institutions one or more times annually. It would also secure a service which is much needed, that of arousing an intelligent public opinion on the matter of relief along proper lines. The inspection would secure the right kind of buildings, raise the standard of superintendency, and make the administration of the institutions more effective.

Second, there should be laws entailing strict admission and discharge. As was remarked, one may almost pass into almshouses and out at will. Feeble-minded women may make of them a convenience. Debauchees get admitted to rest up, then are away at will. It is a matter of public concern and should be closely regulated.

Third, building laws are needed which would require a

<sup>4</sup> This statement is open to discussion. Recently the tendency has been toward a single board of control.

separation of sexes, special classes of insane and diseased, and that of the children from adults. In the case of small populations several counties would better build jointly to secure these ends. Laws now commonly legalise this procedure.

Fourth, there should be laws which place superintendents and attendants on a civil-service basis, and require a certain standard of fitness and of preparation for the position of superintendent. Had we the institutions of the larger joint-county type these requirements could well be sustained. The best plan is the most economical in the long run and these steps should be taken. They have the approval of the experts and authorities on matters of relief work in the United States and European countries.

Fifth, a law establishing a central accounting system for the state on all charitable and criminal matters is greatly needed. In most of the states it is impossible to discover the amount expended for poor relief and for criminal matters, or the number of persons supported at public expense without resorting to the expense and trouble of visiting every county office and in some states every township office in the state. Such information is necessary if matters are to be improved. If a central accounting system were put into effect it would have a deterring influence on lax administration of public funds. In the matter of poor relief the number of persons aided and the amount of relief should be reported, as well as, perhaps, other facts.

Sixth, a Board of County Charities should be established by law, as is done in Indiana. In that state such a board is made mandatory on the petition of fifteen reputable citizens. The duty of such boards is to visit poor asylums, jails, orphans' homes, lockup, and any other charitable or correctional institution receiving any public support. They report to the Board of County Commissioners quarterly and to the Circuit Judge annually, reports being furnished to the

press and the State Board of Charities. Only travelling expenses are furnished. These boards have been of inestimable value in Indiana.

**Tramps.**—Tramps should receive a treatment specially intended to discover their real nature and to reclaim them if possible. They should be submitted to a work test before receiving assistance. The able, really needy man will gladly avail himself of earning his meal or other assistance. Every farmer has the ability to apply this rule. Those unable to work should go to the almshouse or hospital and should be helped thereto. Those who are able but unwilling to work should not be fed because they would be encouraged to continue the idle parasitic life. If this rule were generally followed tramping would be lessened decidedly. When the community is compact and is able a work house in which the work test is administered is a useful institution.

Besides the application of the work test by the above methods, farm or training colonies for tramps are gaining a very strong advocacy on the part of charity leaders. New Zealand penalises begging so severely that there is very little. It seeks to reform vagrants by means of government "improved farm settlements" and "village settlements" which help the landless to obtain homes.<sup>5</sup>

America has not proceeded so far but makes use of farm colonies to train vagrants to useful habits of work.

**The Feeble-minded.**—Feeble-minded children are generally kept in their homes by parents and given an insufficient training. Not all cases of arrested development may be made self-supporting. Idiocy entails complete dependence. Many backward children, however, may by proper training be fitted to make their own way in life or at least in large measure. This cannot be done in the common schools in classes along with the bright children. If feeble-minded children are to

<sup>5</sup> Henderson, C. R., "Modern Methods of Charity," pp. 310-311; Parsons, Frank, "The Story of New Zealand," Chap. 51, p. 514.

be kept at home they should have special instruction provided them in connection with the schools. Failing this, they should be sent to the school which the state provides or to similar private institutions, where special attention and facilities exist. Most communities and states are lax in this. Parents dislike to entrust their children to strangers and refuse to admit that they are less able than other children. This attitude on the part of the parents is to the detriment of the child. For its own good they should be willing to send it where it may receive the greatest assistance.

**Incipient Insanity.**—One of the weakest places in our treatment of the unfortunate persons who become subject to insanity lies in the initial stages of the disease. The common method consists in throwing the insane into the local jail if they are violent, of giving them a trial before a county board, and of sending them to the state institution for the insane. This process leaves out of account the idea of curability of the patient and disregards his sentiments and standing in the community upon recovery. Statistics of the proportion of insanity cases which are curable are not abundant. Yet reliable statements place it at from one-fourth to one-third. Even higher estimates are made. Nearly one-fourth admitted to the state hospitals are cured, 80 per cent. of these within a year. Many others are discharged sufficiently improved to return to their homes. "It is estimated that avoidable cases of insanity account for about 50 per cent. of the patients under treatment." <sup>6</sup>

The following reasons are given for the maintenance in each county or small group of counties of a separate detention hospital for the incipient insane.

(1) Incarceration in local jails (frequently used) should never be resorted to. The individuals afflicted are subjects not criminals. Moreover, violent behaviour of inmates, such

<sup>6</sup> Ex-Governor Hughes of New York, "Why Should Any One Go Insane?" State Charity Aid Association, New York City.

as of violent inebriates, is likely to result in harm in developing the trouble.

(2) The subject of acute mania should have advantage of a temporary test because of the stigma which attaches to having been an inmate of an "asylum." Besides, the aversion to this mode of treatment on the part of the subject and friends prevents that early treatment which might check the development of the attack.

(3) The effects of a demented person on the people in the vicinity, especially the children, is bad and should be removed as soon as possible. The reverse is also true, for the subject is necessarily subject to many deteriorating influences in the home.

(4) It is estimated that the average cost of a permanent insane subject in Illinois is about \$6,000, a sum to be escaped if possible. Let us suppose that each patient treated in a detention hospital should cost \$1,000. In recovering ten people the state and community would save an item of \$50,000.

(5) To give a chance for training to coming, and practising physicians in the detection and treatment of psychical disturbances and diseases may be an object. This is, of course, a somewhat incidental consideration, but when we remember that few physicians have had any training in the psychology of mental disorders and that the community is dependent on their knowledge in such cases, their equipment becomes a matter of great importance.

Says Dr. Frederick Peterson, "We have emergency hospitals for broken bones or acute fevers; but when the most important organ of the body, the brain, becomes affected with an acute disease, the emergency hospital is the jail. This deplorable condition of affairs has led to a steadily increasing agitation of the subject of emergency hospitals for the insane. It is an axiom among physicians versed in psychiatry that early diagnosis and speedy treatment are of para-

mount importance in nearly all cases of acute insanity. Surely, nothing could be worse for a delirious mind than the sight of police officials and prison walls. I advocate, therefore, the establishment in all large towns and cities of emergency pavilions or independent hospitals for the reception of the insane. Two small wards in a general hospital, or a pavilion in connection therewith, will suffice," in large towns.

**Jails and Lockups.**—The work of correction in rural communities is carried on by justice, county, and district courts, and by jails and lockups, reformatories and prisons. We are more concerned with the institutions which are located close to the country itself. Without describing the methods and processes in common use let us consider some of the things which should be done to make the work of correction effective and socially safe.

There are a number of needed improvements relative to jails and lockups. First, they should be maintained as places of detention for persons awaiting trial rather than for purposes of punishment. They are not fitted for the latter because they have not facilities for giving work and training of a curative nature. Idleness is demoralising. Second, they should not be used as places for the detention of witnesses since this mixes the innocent and criminal in a contaminating manner and places a stigma on the witness. Third, these detention places should be built to permit the entire separation of prisoners from each other and of the sexes. Very few local institutions admit of these necessary precautions against the contamination of the beginners by the hardened criminals, and of the humiliation of womanhood. Fourth, we have given the reasons for excluding the insane from imprisonment. Fifth, youthful offenders should never be placed in the position of being regarded as criminals nor should they be thrust in with grown men, perhaps of the professional criminal type. The one crushes the sense of innocence and freedom, the other is a schooling in



vicious and criminal practices. Sixth, some agency of a competent nature should be established for supervision and construction of local jails. Our common jails are a disgrace to civilisation in nearly all particulars. They should be improved by adequate court or state supervision. Since many inmates are later sent to state institutions under state laws it is evident that the state has authority in the premises. Supervision by a state agency obtains in Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia, California, and Connecticut. In Indiana a county board, whose members serve without pay, coöperate with the state board of charities. In that state the state board may condemn a jail, and has secured laws excluding juvenile delinquents, providing a police matron and better separation of the sexes.

**The Probation System Needs to be Extended to Rural Regions.**—The New York State Probation Commission regards the “extension of the probation system in the rural section of the state, through county probation officers, as very important. The social conditions, the non-enforcement of law and the absence of preventive agencies in many of the smaller communities, call urgently for probationary methods.” The report of the Commission for 1909 says: “Much of the shiftlessness, lawlessness, truancy, vice, and crime in rural places goes uncorrected. Before anything effective is done to check the wayward tendencies in children and the rowdyism in young men, the evils often become so grave as to be beyond remedy. Some of the worst criminals and the most degenerate families in the state have grown up in small communities. In the absence of probation, practically the only course available is commitment to jail, and this rarely does good, and in many cases does harm.”<sup>7</sup>

In case county probation officers cannot be obtained or until they are provided, voluntary associations with special

<sup>7</sup> *Survey*, May 21, 1910, pp. 304-5.

appointees to act as such should be organised. Justice courts are not proper tribunals for handling juvenile cases because the officers have no training and insight for such duties. A specially selected man who is in full sympathy with children and who has full knowledge of the methods of juvenile courts and probational processes is the only one competent to prevent youth from becoming professional delinquents.

**County Welfare Agencies.**—It is possible that county forces might sustain a "Charity Organisation." The federated forces of cities coöperate to prevent duplication of work, confusion in relief, wasteful methods of administration, and the building up rather than the curtailment of a dependent population. Should representatives of the schools, churches, poor officials and the various occupations of rural districts get together they could maintain a county associated charities. A council or board of directors with full power to act should be chosen. This would provide the supporting and directing power to the undertaking. An executive committee of the active and wide-awake representatives would work out lines of action and see that they were followed. A finance committee, a survey committee for making a survey of existing conditions, a medical committee and a visitation or friendly visitors' committee, are some of the useful committees.

The function which such a county organisation could perform are many. The more prominent and fundamental ones are coöperation with indoor and outdoor relief; the protection of children from life in an almshouse; discovering and securing the transmission of defective persons, such as the feeble-minded, the deaf, and the blind, to appropriate institutions; suppression of vagrancy by securing the general application of the work test or the passage of colony laws; initiating and conducting work that would help to prevent the production of dependency; and coöperation with city charity organisations.

A yearly meeting of the united forces would be stimulative. Other county organisations have such gatherings, the county Sunday School Association especially. With reports of work accomplished, discussion of conditions and methods of improvement, speeches and papers, the session could be made educative and promotive of the larger good.

Recent reform movements have given birth to the Board of Public Welfare of cities, and the Public Welfare League of Kansas. A suggestion has been made that counties organise a county Board of Public Welfare which should be the legalised agency for conducting the affairs of charity, delinquency, health, employment, etc.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "A Plan for Co-ordinating State Public Welfare Work," L. A. Halbet, *Survey*, 28; 660-661.

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## CHAPTER XVIII

### RURAL SOCIAL SURVEYS

#### I. IMPORTANCE OF THE SURVEY

**Value in City Life.**—A work on rural life would be incomplete should it fail to develop the thought of the social survey in its application to rural communities. The survey concept is comparatively new, although in a certain sense all censuses from those of ancient Semitic nations and the Domesday Book of William the First of England down to modern national and state censuses are approaches to making surveys. Scientific methods require time to grow and become perfected and the social survey as an objective method of obtaining facts relative to community life has developed and must still be subjected to criticism, experience, and improvement before it may be called a perfected scientific method of the social sciences.

In recent times the survey ideal has taken root in the city. It has sprung out of a practical attempt to obtain information about urban conditions so that certain abuses might be removed and social problems solved. Perhaps Charles Booth's investigations in London during seventeen years, the results of which appeared in his "Life and Labour of the People of London," may be called the beginning of the modern survey. Similar investigations, though not so extensive, have been conducted by various individuals in American cities.

In cities life is so complicated, conditions are so numerous and enmeshed, that it is impossible for the mere individual to prosecute the work of a survey which shall be general with

fulness and precision. As a consequence organised efforts have undertaken the work and we have the "Pittsburg survey," and the "Buffalo survey," as their noted examples. Other cities are making inventories of city conditions with a view to projecting plans for the direction of their future development.

The value of the survey is obvious. Before beginning to construct its line of railway a railway corporation sends out its corps of engineers who obtain a knowledge of the character of the territory through which it is proposed to construct the line relative to advantages and disadvantages of projection and construction. Besides this other experts have gathered data as to the resources of the region in order to demonstrate a certain basis for profitable traffic after the road has been built. No material fact is left out of account which throws light on the nature of the undertaking. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be required to develop the project and absolute accuracy and certainty is demanded to warrant this expenditure.

The city is a permanent collective entity. It is to be the home of human beings far into the future. Human welfare is at stake. Complicated conditions bring abuses and problems. Remedies and solutions must be founded on accurately ascertained facts. To gather the facts about all phases of city life and to plat and map the conditions as they exist for the direction of present and future efforts at betterment is as important and necessary in the case of the city as in that of the railway.

The practical benefits of the urban survey have appeared. Pittsburg has undertaken the regeneration of its civic life as a consequence of its survey. Other cities have been awakened to the consciousness of their untoward conditions because of the revelations in Pittsburg and are moving to take action. The Buffalo survey involved only the conditions of the 70,000 or 80,000 Poles who live in that city, a popula-

tion not known by the municipality nor understood by itself. Since the survey, "in place of general ignorance and either indifference or vague talk of a 'problem,' have been substituted an accurate knowledge of the conditions of the Poles; and aroused interest, on the part of the general local public and of the Poles themselves, in those conditions; the beginnings of a movement of coöperation, for betterment and mutual advantage, between the Poles and the rest of the community; and withal, a clearly defined question of social economy." <sup>1</sup>

Additional value attaches to the survey from the fact that it furnishes an accurate objective scientific method which the social sciences may use to their advantage.

**Value in Rural Life.**—Several reasons exist why the survey idea took root in cities first. The social problems arose there earliest to demand consideration. It became necessary to chart the conditions, consequently, in order to solve the problems satisfactorily. Again the community idea is more perceptible in the city. The city is a definitely bounded and compacted aggregation. Therefore the suggestion is likely to occur there before it arises in the country that all the facts and conditions relative to this clearly defined object may be obtained. Where the community idea is clouded and the boundaries between communities are not conspicuously visible, as is the case in the country, the undertaking to secure a neighbourhood reconnaissance appears vague. Until the prism separated the rays of sunlight into distinct groups it was not thought possible to chart the spectrum. Now the twenty-one colours of the normal spectrum with their boundary lines may be designated. Rural life surveys have had to await the development of the analysis of country life conditions and the defining of rural communities as such. We now know enough about rural communities to undertake the application of the survey to them.

<sup>1</sup> "National Conference of Charities and Correction," 1910, p. 238.

The value of the rural survey rests on the reply to the questions, Does the country need to know anything about itself? Has the rural community any pressing problems? If this volume is true these questions must be answered in the affirmative. We have discovered many problems in country life. Some of these problems are those of local communities and must be solved largely by developing an appreciation on the part of the inhabitants of those communities of the conditions lying beneath those problems. Some of the rural problems are inter-community matters and await the development of intercommunity coöperation. The first set of problems because of their localised nature may appropriately be subjected to the rural social survey. If a survey of the conditions which underlie the second group of problems is to be undertaken it must be on a very large scale, calling for the effort of state or nation.

Since the country has its problems and since their solution awaits the discovery of the exact terms entering into the problem the inference is forced upon us that a rural survey which discovered the conditions of any of its problems would be of great value. As a matter of fact the survey has been applied to certain rural matters. In order to discover how to secure the best returns from the soil both national and state agricultural experts have been making surveys to determine the location of the different kinds of soils. A counterpart of this is to discover what plants will thrive best on each of these soils. These terms being found the problem has found its solution. What now remains to be done to make the application of the survey to the country complete is to follow this same procedure relative to matters of education, of labour, of church, of recreation, culture, associational matters, and so on, until the whole is covered. It is in line with all similar scientific undertakings to conclude that the compensation to rural community welfare resulting from the survey will be rich beyond peradventure.



**Relative Ease of Making a Rural Survey.**—As compared with the work of making an urban survey that of a rural community is simple and easy. To make a complete community survey would be to discover and record all the essential facts which bear in any way upon the welfare of the community. In our chapter on the distinction between the urban and rural community it was discovered that while the city is a very distinctly localised and bounded object of investigation it is also a medley of associational relations. It is therefore exceedingly difficult to gather together all the facts relative to urban life and to so rationally relate and organise them that they will give an unbiased and accurate account of the community in its entirety. In fact a full-orbed, exhaustive urban survey has never yet been undertaken. Every survey which has yet been made has been partial. Certain individual surveys have been somewhat exhaustive in their plan but incomplete in their facts.<sup>2</sup> Surveys undertaken by organisations or cities have devoted themselves to the investigation of certain aspects of city life.

When we turn to rural communities we find them simple in constitution although their exact perimeters are not easily designated. The latter difficulty is, however, light as compared with that arising from the constitutional complexity of the city. It would not be difficult for the trained investigator to gather and chart the essential conditions of a given rural neighbourhood. The live pastor and the virile educator should each be able to accomplish this for the adaptation and direction of their respective sociological functions.

## II. NATURE OF THE SURVEY

**Kinds of Surveys.**—Surveys may be partial and general. They may also be scientific or practical. These two groups

<sup>2</sup> Such for instance as T. J. Riley's "The Higher Life of Chicago," and the earlier "Culture Agencies of a Typical Manufacturing Group—South Chicago," by the present writer.

of surveys are not exclusive of each other. Both a partial and general survey may at the same time be either scientific or practical. Clearness requires a brief characterisation of each.

1. The partial survey consists in the investigation, collection, and rationalisation of the facts relative to any particular section of community life. The labour factor of a neighbourhood might be studied. The study would embrace the number, character, and quality of the labourers, wages, conditions of living, relation of workers in various relationships to other residents of the community, defects of the labour system for the labourers and for the community, etc. The educator might investigate all the conditions bearing on education in his school district, or study some particular phase of the educational situation. The latter study might consider the play conditions of the district. This would embrace such considerations, as the number, ages, and sex of the children, facilities for play in the homes, neighbourhood, and school, nature of their play whether individual or organised, possibility and advantages of organised play in school, or elsewhere, including cost of equipment and direction. The philosophy of the function of play in the life of the individual and society would constitute a background for the direction of the investigation and the conclusions drawn from it.

2. The general survey would attempt to obtain an exact knowledge of all the essential facts of the community. It seeks to know the community in its entirety and the conditions of the community in their interrelationships and interdependencies. Whatever the purpose of the survey may be it is certain that the more complete and accurate the collection of facts can be made the truer to life and reality will the conclusions be. In this survey hardly any condition, whether individual or collective in its appearance, is too insignificant to be regarded. The musical tastes of a domestic

or the inventive tendencies of a farmer's boy may have a significance for the life of rural communities.

3. In their purpose surveys may be practical or scientific. A survey is practical when it has for its immediate aim the improvement of some particular phase of neighbourhood life or of the general life of the community. Most of the surveys so far have been immediately utilitarian in their aim.

A survey is scientific when it is made to serve merely scientific uses immediately. A student of society might investigate the conditions of city or country in order to understand the nature of such communities. If taught to or published for others this would enlarge the scientific knowledge of such communities. This, however, would not prevent it from being useful ultimately. It may be said that rural sociology stands quite as much in need of such studies as rural welfare demands practical surveys on the part of well equipped workers.

**What a Sociological Survey Should Contain.**— 1. The nature of the contents will measurably depend on the purpose of the survey. (a) The partial survey will contain such considerations as are pertinent to its inquiry. Thus a church survey will gather all facts which bear on church life at the least. No doubt the contents actually gathered will depend on the training and outlook of the investigator. Economic conditions might be studied from either or both of two viewpoints: as a basis of the material resources of the church, or with a view to considering economic conditions as a basis of social welfare. In the same manner the birth-rate of the community might be studied as affecting the future membership of the church, or as reflecting the ethical views of residents relative to family matters. Thus the view-point of the investigator will broaden or narrow the scope of the investigation. Scarcely any fact exists which might not be of value to the conducting of a church for social welfare purposes. If its aim is merely doctrinal and individualistic, on the other

hand, a survey is hardly necessary, save for reasons of expediency. But if its aim is broadly social it must understand the community sociologically, that is in its entirety.

What has been said about the church survey holds true of those which might be made by educators, doctors, farmers, etc. Each of these persons may take the individualistic view of his calling. In this case a survey would be difficult to justify. But if he views himself or his work as having a social function, and if he has in mind the social welfare, his survey must embrace practically every fact in order that he and his function may find their right social relationship. Then the conclusions drawn from the survey will relate to the adaptation of his calling to advance the good of the community rather than to the community welfare in general. Thus the preacher will draw conclusions relative to making his church the best possible social service church under the given conditions; and no doubt also how to make it better the conditions.

(b) The general survey must tabulate all contents of whatever character because the aim of the survey is as broad as the whole of the community in question. This survey would be undertaken to afford a prospectus of community conditions which would be competent to serve either general or special purposes. It should help the control and direction of community conditions in general. It should be available for the control and direction of any division of labour, institution, or group of individuals. It should shed light on how to uplift and improve the community as a community. It should prompt a conclusion as to what the church, the school, the home, or any other institution or division of labour should be and undertake. It is assumed that the investigator possesses a knowledge of other community conditions which will serve to regulate conclusions relative to the region surveyed.

2. A somewhat approximate scheme for the direction of rural surveys may be suggested but must not be regarded as

final. The schedules and tabulations under each of them are intended to suggest and to comprehend the important facts to be gathered.

Schedule A, Physical conditions.

Altitude.

Topography.

Precipitation of moisture.

Average and extremes of temperature by seasons.

Prevailing winds, velocity.

Length and character of seasons.

Kinds of soil.

Forests.

Mineral resources.

Streams and lakes.

Schedule B, Elements of population.

Number of inhabitants by age and sex.

Number and size of families.

Widows, widowers, orphans.

Nationalities: number, age, sex.

Education and Americanising quality of immigrants.

Tendencies in population towards transiency and racial displacement; increase or decrease.

Schedule C, Economic factors.

Number and size of farms.

Conditions of agriculture.

Methods of farming.

Acreage and yield of crops.

Amount and quality of stock and poultry.

Buildings, machinery, and equipment.

Marketing.

Proximity of markets.

Profit of farmer from marketing.

Organisations to improve prices and marketing.

Number and characteristics of renters.

Labourers and labour conditions.

Wages, hours.

Conditions of living.

Comparative rate of taxes, interest.

Mortgages.

Schedule D, Political conditions.

Character of local government.

Quality of officers.  
Political ideas and parties.  
Voting population.

**Schedule E, Religious conditions.**

Number and strength of denominations.  
Number of churches, size of membership, congregations.  
Character of pastors: education, view-point.  
Individualistic or socialised character of church work.  
Equipment of plants for community work.  
Auxiliary societies.

**Schedule F, Cultural conditions.**

Schools.  
Number.  
School attendance by age and sex.  
Teachers by age and sex.  
Equipment of buildings as to light, heat, sanitation, desks, blackboards, charts, reference works, laboratories, toilet, water, athletics, organised play, domestic science, agriculture, industrial, and manual training, playgrounds.  
Character of course of study.  
Culture clubs for men, women, and children.  
Public libraries: equipment, patronage.  
Newspapers and periodicals: circulation and character.  
Institutes, chautauquas, lectures.

**Schedule G, Community psychology.**

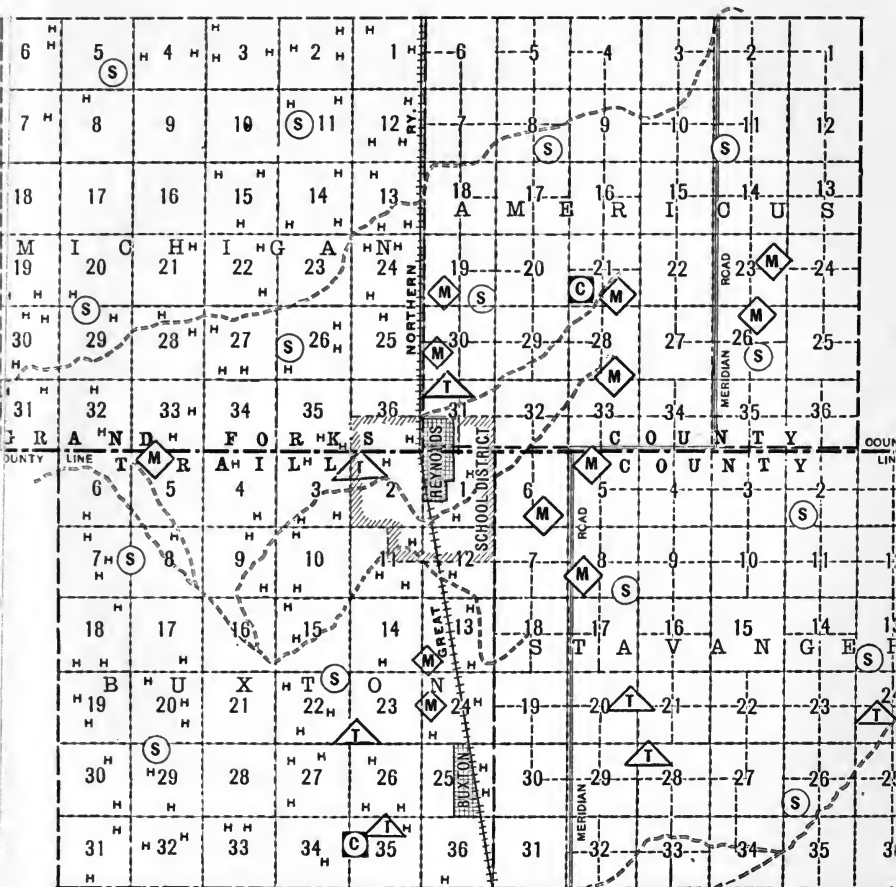
Public opinion: strong or weak; united or divisive; emotional or rational.  
Ideals: high or low, socialised or individualistic.  
Capacity to lead and respond to leadership.  
Race or class prejudice; feuds; cliques.

**Schedule H, Transportation and communication.**

Location and condition of roads.  
Method of transit; wagon, carriage, horseback, automobile, trolley.  
Use of telephone, rural delivery, etc.  
Organisations for improvement.

**Schedule I, Esthetic conditions.**

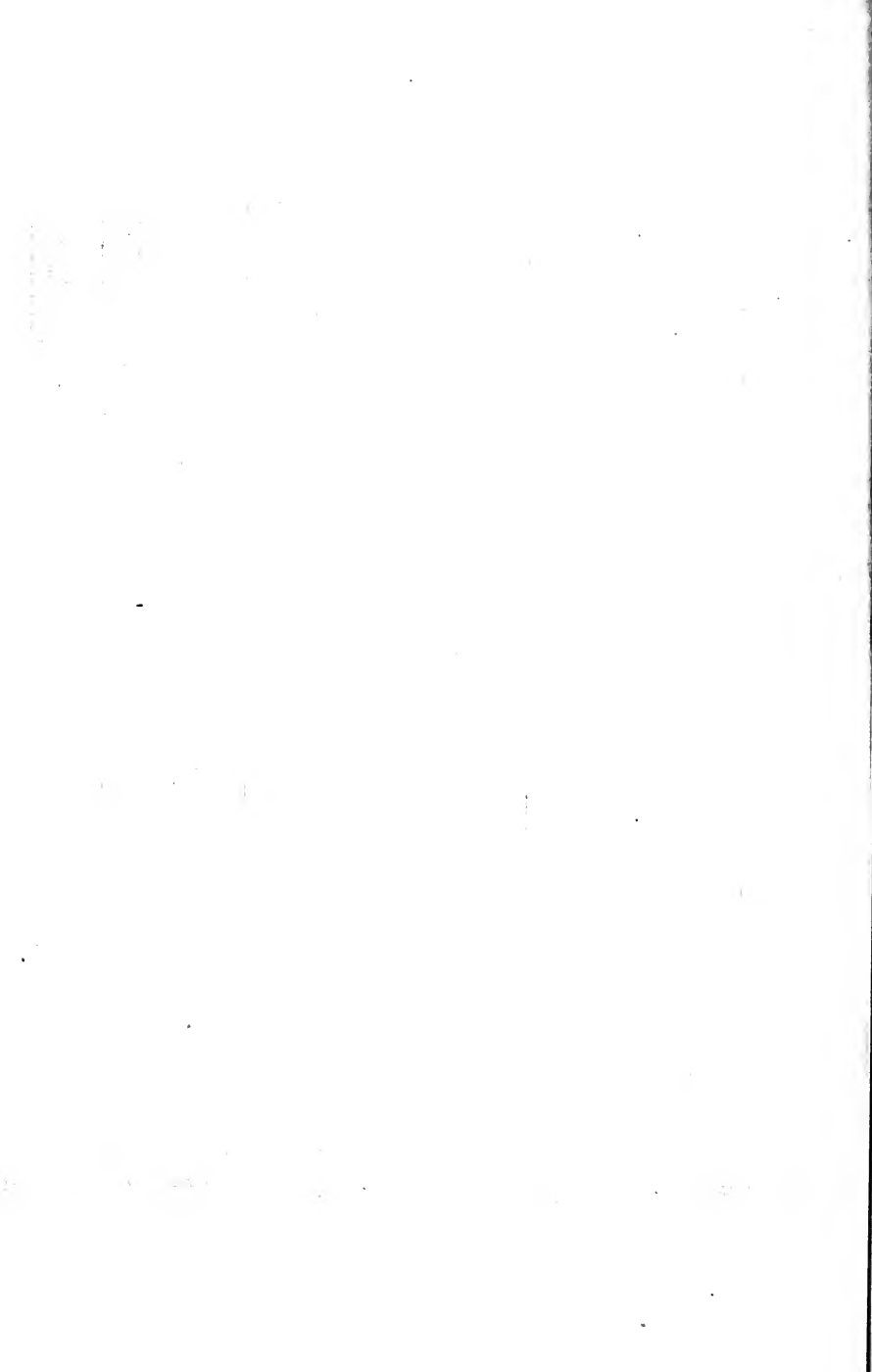
Appearance of landscape: improved or unimproved, marred, or regarded.  
Appearance of homes, barns, outbuildings, fences, forestry, and fields.  
Appearance of interior of homes.



# POPULATION

	1890	1900	1910	
Americus	544	462	387	
Michigan	369	279	275	
Buxton	1021	1110	668	} 1088
Stavanger (Org'd 1908)			420	
Reynolds		389	412	

- (S) Schools
- (C) Church
- (T) Cemetery
- (M) Methodist Family
- Size of Farms
- Coulees
- School District





## Schedule J, Recreation.

- Recreation clubs.
- Games and sports.
- Entertainments.
- Places and equipment for such activities.

## Schedule K, Health conditions.

- Conditions about barns, homes and other structures.
- Methods of disposal of slops, sewage, garbage, and manures.
- Undrained swamps.
- Character of water supply.
- Heating, lighting, and sanitation of public buildings: churches,  
schools, halls, etc.
- Diseased animals.
- Housekeeping: preparation and care of foods, milk, vegetables.
- Care of infectious diseases.
- Treatment of sick or defective school children.

## Schedule L, Pathological conditions.

- Degenerate classes and influences.
- Number, age, sex of dependents.
- Number, age, sex of criminals.
- Number, age, sex of defectives.
- Idiots, feeble-minded, insane, epileptics.
- Character of institutions for care of defectives, dependents, and delinquents.
- Methods and quality of relief work.
- Methods and care of dependent children.
- Preventive and ameliorative agencies.

Additional interest and insight may be gained by the construction of accompanying maps and graphic representations. The chief features of statistical tabulations should be plotted on thick paper, cardboard, or even cloth for the purpose of public display. Comparative black lines and spaces are effective devices for attracting attention and presenting the truth in a short time.

The accompanying map of a rural Methodist parish presents some of the more important surface facts which may be represented on a map. It was made by the pastor of the parish, Mr. S. S. Wyand, a graduate student of the writer. The parish is located in an almost perfectly level region.

The coulées are slight depressions, dry during most of the time but furnishing a drainage in wet weather. The location of the homes gives an idea of their distance from each other. Reynolds, in which the church is located, is a rural village of about 500 inhabitants. The railway and the Meridian Road are the chief transportation features of the community, although fairly good roads exist on most section lines. Only enough families were located to indicate the frequency of homes. The size of farms is indicated at the right of the Great Northern Railway only.

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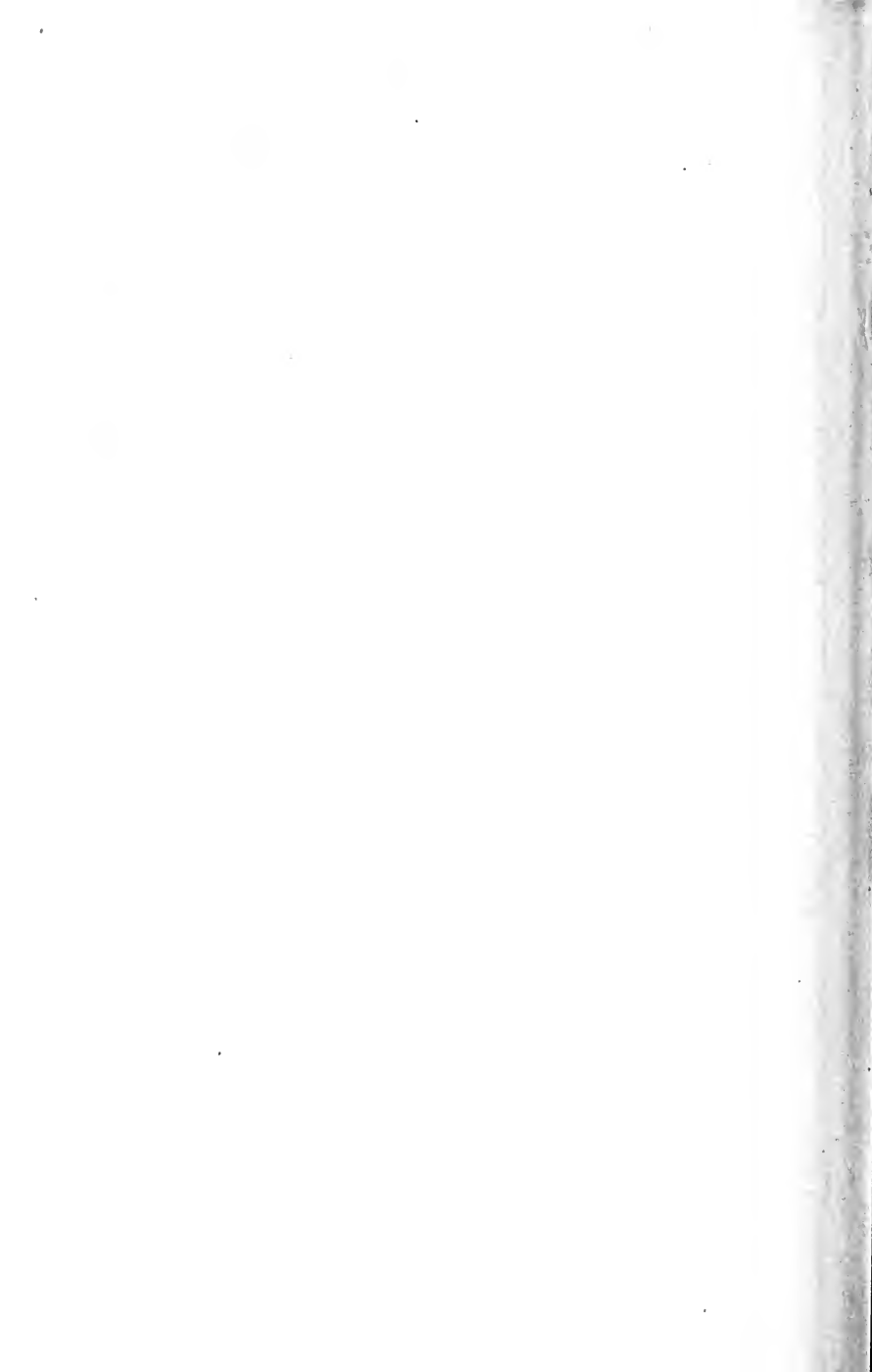
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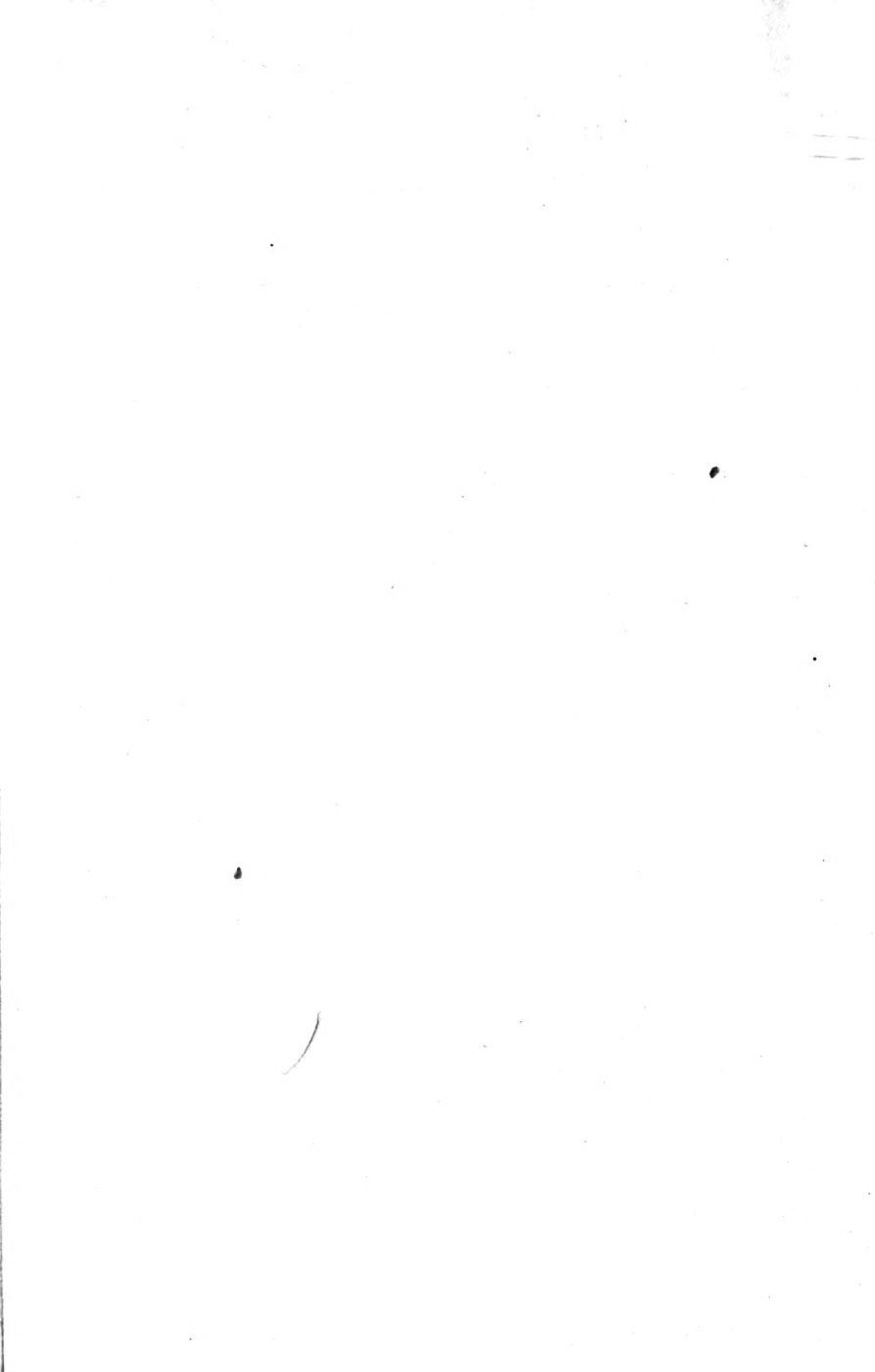


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